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THE
CHRIST
" OF THE
GOSPELS

*The life and work of
JESUS*

as told by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John

Presented as one complete story
in the language of today
by
William F. Beck

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Preface

If Jesus were talking to us today, He wouldn't use the strange words of long ago. He would talk to us in the language we use when we talk to one another. The purpose of this book is to let Jesus tell us His wonderful truths in our own language.

What He said and did was written down by Matthew, Mark, Luke, and John. And we have to read all four Gospels if we want the whole story of Jesus. Only Matthew and Luke tell us how Jesus was born. Only John tells us about the raising of Lazarus and the breakfast of the disciples with their risen Savior by the lake. Three of these writers, Matthew, Mark, and Luke, tell us about the Lord's Supper. But all four tell us how He suffered, died, and rose again.

How do the four Gospels fit together? How do the many events follow one another in the life of Christ? What was the one life of Jesus that all four writers tell us about? These are the problems which I have tried to solve. Here you will find everything in the four Gospels fitted together in one flowing story. Here is the life of Jesus from the time He came down to the earth until He returned to His Father.

It is a thrilling story, something never seen "on land or sea." It is the story of the Son of God, who loved us and gave Himself for us. Here we meet Him face to face, let Him talk to us, and as He goes to give His lifeblood for us, we let Him tell us, "Your sins are forgiven." And so He reaches with power into our lives, claims us as His own, never to let us go.

William F. Beaf

The Life of Jesus

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This is the Beginning of

The Good News
about
JESUS CHRIST
The Son of God

Luke Says

Many have undertaken to plan and write a story of what has been done among us, just as we heard it from those who from the first became eyewitnesses and servants of the Word. For this reason I too decided to check everything carefully from the beginning and to write it down in the proper order for you, most noble Theophilus, so that you may be sure that what you heard is true.

Jesus as a Child

An Angel Comes to Zacharias

When Herod was king in the country of the Jews, there was a priest by the name of Zacharias. He belonged to the division of priests named after Abijah. He had a wife who was a descendant of Aaron, and her name was Elizabeth. Both were righteous before God as they lived blamelessly according to all the rules and regulations of the Lord.

But they had no children, because Elizabeth was barren and both were old.

Now the time came for Zacharias to be on duty with his division and to serve as a priest before God. According to the custom of the priests he was chosen by lot to go into the temple of the Lord to burn incense. All the people were praying outside while he was burning incense.

Then he saw an angel of the Lord standing at the right

side of the altar of incense. Zacharias was startled to see him, and he was frightened.

"Don't be afraid, Zacharias," the angel told him. "*Your prayer has been heard.*¹ * *Your wife Elizabeth will have a son, and you must call him*² John. He will be your joy and delight, and his birth will make many people happy.

"He will be a great man before the Lord. *He will drink no wine or liquor.*³ He will be filled with the Holy Spirit even before he is born. And he will turn many of the people of Israel back to the Lord, their God. He will go ahead of Him with the spirit and power of *Elijah, to move fathers to love their children,*⁴ and the disobedient to think as righteous men – and so to get a people thoroughly prepared for the Lord."

"How can I tell that this is so?" Zacharias asked the angel. "I am an old man, and my wife is old."

"I am Gabriell" the angel answered him. "I stand before God, and I was sent to speak to you and to tell you this good news. And now you will be silent and not able to speak until the day when this happens, because you didn't believe what I said. But it will come true at the right time."

Meanwhile the people were waiting for Zacharias and were wondering why he stayed so long in the holy place. When he did come out, he couldn't speak to them. Then they realized that he had seen a vision in the holy place. He continued to motion to them and wasn't able to talk.

When the days of his service were over, he went home. After that, his wife Elizabeth conceived, and she didn't show herself in public for five months. "The Lord did this for me," she said. "I was feeling ashamed among people. But He was kind and helped me. Now I don't have to feel ashamed any more."

* Old Testament words are in italics. Their sources are listed by number on pages 217 and 218.

An Angel Comes to Mary

Five months later God sent the angel Gabriel to Nazareth, a town in Galilee, to a virgin who was engaged to a man by the name of Joseph, a descendant of David. The virgin's name was Mary.

Coming into her home, the angel said: "Greetings to you, you blessed one. The Lord is with you."

Startled by what he said, she tried to figure out what such a greeting might mean.

"Don't be afraid, Mary," the angel told her, "God is good to you. *You see, you will conceive and have a son, and you will call Him* ⁵ *Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the most high God. And the Lord God will give Him the throne of His father David. He will be King over the people of Jacob forever, and His kingdom will never end.*" ⁶

"How can this be?" Mary asked the angel. "I am not living with a husband."

"The Holy Spirit will come over you," the angel answered her, "and the power of the most high God will overshadow you. For that reason the Child will be called holy and the Son of God. Now there is also Elizabeth, your relative. She is old, but she, too, is going to have a son. People call her childless, but she is now in her sixth month. *There is nothing that God will not be able to do.*" ⁷

"I am the servant of the Lord," Mary answered. "Let it happen to me as you said."

Then the angel left her.

Mary Visits Elizabeth

Then Mary hurried away to a town in the hills of Judea. There she went into the home of Zacharias and greeted Elizabeth.

When Elizabeth heard Mary's greeting, the baby leaped within her. Then Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit,

and she cried out aloud: "Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Child you are carrying. But why should this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord comes to me? The moment I heard your greeting, the baby stirred with delight within me. Blessed is she who believed that the Lord will do what He promised her."

Then Mary said:

*My soul praises the Lord,
And my spirit delights in God, my Savior,⁸
Because He has looked kindly at His humble servant.⁹
Yes, from now on the people in all the ages will call me
blessed.*

He has done great things to me —

*He who is mighty,
And whose name is holy,¹⁰
And who is merciful to all generations of those who
fear Him.¹¹*

He has done mighty deeds with His arm.

He has scattered¹² those who imagine proud things.

He has pushed some mighty men off their thrones

And lifted up lowly people.¹³

He has filled the hungry with good things,¹⁴

And the rich He has sent away empty-handed.

He has come to help His servant Israel,¹⁵

Because He wants to remember His mercy¹⁶

(as He promised to our fathers),

The mercy which He gave to Abraham

and to his descendants forever.¹⁷

Mary stayed with Elizabeth about three months and then went back home.

John Is Born

At last the time came for Elizabeth to give birth to a child, and she had a baby boy. When her neighbors and

relatives heard that the Lord had been wonderfully kind to her, they were happy with her.

On the eighth day they came to circumcise the baby. They were going to call him Zacharias because that was the name of his father. But his mother spoke up. "No!" she said. "He's going to be called John."

"But there's nobody among your relatives who has that name," they told her.

Then they motioned to his father to see what name he might want him to have. He asked for a writing tablet and wrote, "His name is John." They were all surprised.

Just then he got his speech back, and he could talk again. He began to speak, praising God.

All who lived around them were overawed. And all over the hills of Judea people kept talking about all these things. All who heard of them kept them in mind. "What is this child going to be?" they asked. Yes, the hand of the Lord was with him.

His father Zacharias was filled with the Holy Spirit, and he prophesied:

Blessed be the Lord, the God of Israel,¹⁸

Because He has visited His people

And prepared a ransom for them.¹⁹

He has raised up a mighty Savior for us

Among the descendants of His servant David,²⁰

As He said long ago through His holy prophets

That He would save us from our enemies

And from the power of all who hate²¹ us.

He wanted to be merciful to our fathers²²

And keep in mind His holy covenant,

The oath He swore to our father Abraham

To deliver us from our enemies²³

And let us serve Him without fear
In holiness and righteousness before Him all our life.
And you, child, will be called a prophet of the most high
God.
You will go *ahead of the Lord to prepare the ways for
Him,*²⁴
To tell His people how they can be saved
by the forgiveness of their sins,
Because our God is merciful
And will let a heavenly Sun rise among us.
He *wants to shine on those who sit in the dark
and in the shadow of death.*²⁵
He will guide our feet into *the way of peace.*²⁶

An Angel Comes to Joseph

This is how Jesus Christ was born.

His mother Mary had promised Joseph that she would be his wife. But before they lived together, it was found that she was going to have a child — by the Holy Spirit. Joseph, her husband, was righteous, and yet he didn't want to disgrace her. So he decided to divorce her secretly.

After he had thought about it, he saw an angel of the Lord in a dream. "Joseph, son of David," the angel said, "don't be afraid to take Mary, your wife, home with you, because her Child is from the Holy Spirit. She will have a Son, and you will call Him Jesus because He will save His people from their sins. All this happened in order that what the Lord spoke by the prophet might come true: *The virgin will conceive and have a Son, and He will be called Immanuel,*"²⁷ which means God-with-us.

When Joseph awoke, he did what the angel of the Lord had ordered him to do. He took his wife home with him. But he didn't live with her as a husband until she had a son.

Jesus Is Born

In those days the emperor Augustus ordered that a census be taken of the whole world. This was the first census, and it was taken while Quirinius was on duty in Syria. Everybody went to register, each to his own town.

Joseph also went up from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to David's town, called Bethlehem, in Judea, because he was a descendant of David, to register with Mary, his wife, who was going to have a child.

Now while they were there, the time came for her to have her child. She had her first Son, and she wrapped Him up and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn.

The Shepherds

Now there were shepherds not far away, living in the field and taking turns at watching over their flock during the night.

Then an angel of the Lord stood by them, and the glory of the Lord shone all around them. They were terrified. "Don't be afraid," the angel said to them. "I bring you good news of a great joy which is meant for all the people: A Savior, who is Christ the Lord, was born for you today in David's town. And this is how you will know Him: You will find a Baby wrapped and lying in a manger."

Suddenly there was with the angel a large crowd of the angels of heaven, who were praising God and saying: "Glory to God in the highest heavens, and on earth peace among people who have His good will!"

When the angels had left them and had gone to heaven, the shepherds said to one another: "The Lord has told us what has happened. Let's go to Bethlehem and see it."

They hurried over there and searched until they found

Mary and Joseph, and the Baby lying in the manger. When they had seen Him, they told others what had been said to them about this Child. And everybody was surprised to hear the story the shepherds told.

But Mary treasured all these things in her heart and kept thinking about them.

The shepherds went back, glorifying and praising God for all that they had heard and seen. Everything had been just as they had been told.

In the Temple

On the eighth day the time came to circumcise the Child, and Joseph called Him Jesus, the name that the angel had given Him before He had been conceived.

When *the time came for them to be purified*²⁸ according to the Law of Moses, Joseph and Mary took Jesus up to Jerusalem to give Him to the Lord (as it is written in the Law of the Lord, *Every first-born boy is to be called the Lord's holy one*)²⁹ and to offer a sacrifice according to the Law of the Lord, *a pair of turtledoves or two young pigeons*.³⁰

Now there was in Jerusalem a man by the name of Simeon. He was a good and God-fearing man. He was waiting for the One who would bring comfort to Israel. The Holy Spirit was on him. The Holy Spirit had told him that before he would die he would see the Savior sent by the Lord.

Moved by the Spirit, he went into the temple. When the parents brought in the child Jesus to do for Him what was customary according to the Law, Simeon took Him in his arms, blessed God, and said:

Lord, now you may let Your servant go in peace as You promised,

Because my eyes have *seen Your salvation*³¹
Which You have prepared for all people to see,
A light to shine on the Gentiles,
And the *glory of Your people Israel*.³²

His father and mother were wondering what was said about Him. Then Simeon blessed them, and he said to His mother Mary: "Many in Israel will fall and rise on account of this Child. He will be a sign against which people will talk, and many will show what they think in their hearts. And pain, sharp as a sword, will also go through your heart."

Anna, a prophetess, was also there. She was a daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was now very old. When she was a girl, she had married a man with whom she lived for seven years. After that she was a widow until she was eighty-four. She never left the temple but worshiped day and night, fasting and praying. She, too, came forward just then, thanked God, and spoke about the Child to all who were waiting for Jerusalem to be set free.

Joseph and Mary did everything the Law of the Lord told them to do.

The Wise Men

Jesus was born in Bethlehem in Judea when Herod was king. Then Wise Men came from the East to Jerusalem. "Where is the Child that was born King of the Jews?" they asked. "We have seen His star appear, and we have come to worship Him."

When King Herod heard about this, he and all Jerusalem with him were troubled. He called together all of the people's ruling priests and experts in the Law and tried to find out from them where the promised Savior was to be born.

"In Bethlehem, in Judea," they told him, "because the prophet has written: *And you, Bethlehem in the land of Judah, are by no means the least among the leading towns of Judah, since from you will come a leader who will be the Shepherd of My people Israel.*"³³

Then Herod secretly called the Wise Men and found out from them the exact time during which they had seen the

star. Then he sent them to Bethlehem. "Go and search carefully for the little Child," he said. "And when you have found Him, report back to me, so that I, too, may go and bow down before Him."

After they had heard the king, they started out. And there was the star which they had seen when it appeared! It led them on until it came to a stop over the place where the Child was. They were extremely happy to see the star. They went into the house and saw the little Child with Mary, His mother. Kneeling, they worshiped Him. Then they opened their treasure chests and offered Him gifts: *gold, incense,*³⁴ and myrrh.

But God warned them in a dream not to go back to Herod. So they went home to their country by another road.

To Egypt!

After the Wise Men had left, Joseph in a dream saw an angel of the Lord who said: "Get up, take the little Child and His mother, and flee to Egypt. Stay there till I tell you, because Herod is going to search for the Child to kill Him."

So Joseph got up at night, took the little Child and His mother, and went to Egypt. He stayed there till Herod died. In this way what the Lord had said through the prophet was to come true: *I have called My Son from Egypt.*³⁵

When Herod saw that the Wise Men had tricked him, he got very angry and sent men to kill all the boys in Bethlehem and in all the country around it, up to two years old, according to the exact time that he had found out from the Wise Men.

Then what the prophet Jeremiah had said came true:

*A cry was heard in Ramah
Weeping and bitter wailing:
Rachel crying over her children,
And she refused to be comforted,
Because they were gone.*³⁶

But when Herod had died, Joseph, in Egypt, saw in a dream an angel of the Lord who said: "Get up, take the little Child and His mother, and go to the country of Israel. Those who tried to kill the little Child are dead."

Joseph got up, took the little Child and His mother, and came to the country of Israel. But when he heard, "Archelaus is king of Judea in the place of his father Herod," he was afraid to go there. And being warned in a dream, they went back to Galilee, to their own town of Nazareth. There Joseph made his home. And so what the prophets had said came true: Jesus was to be called a man from Nazareth.

The Boy Jesus

The little Child continued to grow and to get stronger and wiser, and the love of God was with Him.

Every year His parents would go to Jerusalem to celebrate the Passover. And so, when He was twelve years old, they went up, as they always had done for the festival.

When the festival days were over and they were going back, the boy Jesus stayed behind in Jerusalem. But His parents didn't know about it. They thought He was with the others who were traveling with them. After traveling a day, they began to look for Him among their relatives and friends. When they didn't find Him, they went back to Jerusalem, looking for Him.

Two days later they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions. By His understanding and His answers He surprised everyone who heard Him.

When His parents saw Him, they were amazed. "Son, why did You do this to us?" His mother asked Him. "See how anxiously Your father and I have been looking for You!"

"Why were you looking for Me?" He asked them. "Didn't you know that I must be where My Father is?"

But they didn't understand what He told them.

Then He went back with them to Nazareth. And He obeyed them.

His mother kept all these things in her heart. And Jesus *grew wiser and taller and won the approval of God and the people.*³⁷

John and Jesus

John Prepares the Way

The child John grew and became strong in spirit. He lived in the wilderness until he publicly appeared before Israel. It was in the fifteenth year of the rule of the emperor Tiberius, when Pontius Pilate was governor of Judea, when Herod ruled Galilee, when his brother Philip ruled Iturea and Trachonitis, when Lysanias ruled Abilene, and Annas and Caiaphas were the high priests. Then God spoke to John, the son of Zacharias, in the wilderness.

John, the Baptizer, wore clothes of camel's hair and a leather belt around his waist. And he lived on grasshoppers and wild honey.

He came into the wilderness of Judea and preached: "Repent, because the kingdom of heaven is near." He went

into the whole Jordan valley and preached that people should repent and be baptized to have their sins forgiven.

He was the man of whom the book of the prophet Isaiah had said: *See, I will send My messenger ahead of You to prepare the way*³⁸ for You. *Someone will be calling in the wilderness:*

*Prepare the way for the Lord,
Make the paths straight for Him.
Every ravine must be filled,
And every mountain and hill must be cut down.
The crooked must be made straight,
And the rough roads smooth.
All people must see how God saves them.*³⁹

Then all the people of Jerusalem, all Judea, and the whole Jordan valley came out to him. As they confessed their sins, he baptized them in the Jordan River.

While the crowds were coming out to be baptized by him, he saw also many Pharisees and Sadducees coming for Baptism. "Brood of snakes, who warned you to run away from the punishment that awaits you?" he asked them. "Do the works which show that you have repented. And don't start telling yourselves, 'Abraham is our father.' I tell you, God can raise children for Abraham from these stones. The ax is now ready to strike at the roots of the trees, and any tree that doesn't produce good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire."

"What should we do?" the crowds asked him.

"If you have two garments," he answered them, "share them with him who has none; and if you have food, do the same."

Some tax collectors also came to be baptized. "Teacher," they asked him, "what should we do?"

"Don't take more money than you are ordered to collect," he told them.

Even the soldiers asked him, "What should we do?"

"Don't use threats or blackmail to get money from anyone," he told them, "but be satisfied with your pay."

The people were expecting something, and they were all wondering whether John might be the promised Savior. John answered them all in his preaching: "I baptize you with water for a change of heart. But He who is coming after me is mightier than I. I'm not good enough to bend down and untie the straps of His shoes and put them away. He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire. He holds His winnowing shovel in His hand. He will thoroughly clean up His threshing floor. He will gather His wheat into His barn, but the chaff He will burn in a fire that cannot be put out."

And so with many other challenging words he told the good news to the people.

John Baptizes Jesus

When all the people were being baptized, Jesus came from Nazareth in Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. John tried to stop Him, saying, "I need to be baptized by You, and You come to me?"

"Let Me have My way now," Jesus answered him; "that is how we should accomplish every righteous purpose."

Then John gave in to Him and baptized Jesus in the Jordan. Then He stepped out of the water, and while He was praying, He saw the heavens torn open, and God's Holy Spirit coming down on Him in the bodily form of a dove. And a voice from heaven said: "You are *My Son* whom I love. *I am well pleased*⁴⁰ with You."

Jesus was about thirty years old when He began His work.

The Devil Tempts Jesus

Then Jesus, filled with the Holy Spirit, left the Jordan. The Spirit drove Him out into the wilderness to be tempted by the devil. And for forty days the Spirit led Him around in the wilderness while the devil tempted Him. He was there with the wild animals. He ate nothing for forty days. After that He was hungry.

The devil, the tempter, came to Him and said: "If You are the Son of God, tell these stones to become loaves of bread."

"It is written," Jesus answered him, "*A man will not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.*"⁴¹

Then the devil took Him into Jerusalem, the Holy City, and had Him stand on the top of the temple. "If You are the Son of God," he told Him, "jump down from here. It is written, *He will order His angels to watch carefully over you. They will carry you in their hands and will never let you stub your foot against a stone.*"⁴²

"It is also written," Jesus answered him, "*Don't tempt the Lord, your God.*"⁴³

Then the devil took Him to the top of a very high mountain and in a moment showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. "I will give You all this power and glory," the devil told Him, "because it was given to me and I give it to anyone I please. Now if You will kneel and worship me, all this will be Yours."

"Go away, Satan!" Jesus answered him. "It is written, *Worship the Lord, your God, and serve Him*"⁴⁴ only."

When the devil had finished every way of tempting Him, he left Him alone until a better opportunity would come. Now angels came and served Jesus.

The Word Became Flesh

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God.

Everything was made by Him, and not one thing that was made was made without Him.

In Him was life, and the Life was the Light of men. The Light is shining in darkness, and the darkness has not put it out.

A man came — God sent him — his name was John. He came to tell the truth about the Light in order to help all to believe. He was not the Light. He came only to tell the truth about the Light.

The true Light that gives light to every man was coming into the world. He was in the world, and He made the world, and yet the world didn't know Him. He came to His own, and His own people didn't accept Him. But to all who accepted Him He gave the power to become children of God; they are the people who believe in His name. They have been born, not of the blood of parents, or of a sexual desire, or of a man's desire, but of God.

And the Word became flesh and lived among us, and we saw His glory, a glory of the only Son from His Father, full of grace and truth.

John told the truth about Him when he called: "This is the One of whom I said: He who is coming after me is ahead of me because He was before me."

We have all taken from all that is in Him, one gift of grace after another. The Law was given through Moses, but Jesus Christ brought grace and truth. No one has ever seen God. The only Son, who is God, who is in the bosom of the Father — He has told us about Him.

The Lamb of God

When the Jews in Jerusalem sent priests and Levites to John to ask him, "Who are you?" this was John's testimony. He confessed and did not deny. He confessed: "I am not the promised Savior."

"What are you then?" they asked him. "Are you Elijah?"

"I am not," he said.

"Are you the prophet?"

"No," he answered.

Then they asked him, "Who are you? We want to bring an answer to those who sent us. What do you say about yourself?"

He said: "I am *someone calling in the wilderness, 'Make straight the way for the Lord,'*⁴⁵ as the prophet Isaiah said."

Those who had been sent belonged to the Pharisees. They asked him, "Why, then, do you baptize if you're not the promised Savior or Elijah or the prophet?"

"I baptize with water," John answered them. "There is Someone standing among you whom you don't know. He is the One who is coming after me. I am not good enough to untie the strap of His shoe."

This happened at Bethany on the other side of the Jordan, where John was baptizing.

The next day John sees Jesus coming toward him. "There is the Lamb of God," he says, "who takes away the sin of the world. He is the One of whom I said, 'After me will come a Man who came before me, because He was before I was.' Even I didn't know who He was, but I came and baptized with water to show Him to Israel."

"I saw the Spirit come down from heaven as a dove," John testified, "and He stayed on Him. I didn't know who He was, but He who sent me to baptize with water told me:

'When you see the Spirit come down on Someone and stay on Him, He is the One who baptizes with the Holy Spirit.' I saw it, and I testified, 'This is the Son of God.'

The First Disciples

The next day while John was again standing with two of his disciples, he saw Jesus passing by. "There is the Lamb of God!" he said. When the two disciples heard him say this, they followed Jesus.

Jesus turned around and saw them following. "What are you looking for?" He asked them.

"Rabbi" (which means Teacher), "where are You staying?" they asked Him.

"Come, and you will see," He told them. So they came and saw where He was staying, and they stayed with Him that day. It was about 10 o'clock in the forenoon.

One of the two who heard what John said and then followed Jesus was Andrew, the brother of Simon Peter. He first found his own brother Simon, and he told him, "We have found the Messiah" (which means the promised Savior). And he brought him to Jesus.

Looking at him, Jesus said: "You are Simon, the son of John. Your name will be Cephas" * (which means Peter*).

The next day Jesus wanted to go to Galilee. He found Philip. "Follow Me!" Jesus told him. Philip was from Bethsaida, the home town of Andrew and Peter.

Philip found Nathanael and told him, "We have found Him about whom Moses wrote in the Law, and the prophets — Jesus, Joseph's Son from Nazareth."

"Can anything good come from Nazareth?" Nathanael asked him.

"Come and see!" Philip told him.

* Cephas and Peter mean "rock."

Jesus saw Nathanael coming toward Him. "Here is a real Israelite in whom there is no deceit," He said of him.

"How do You know me?" Nathanael asked Him.

"Before Philip called you," Jesus answered him, "when you were under the fig tree, I saw you."

"Master," Nathanael answered Him, "You are the Son of God! You are the King of Israel!"

"You believe because I told you, 'I saw you under the fig tree,'" Jesus answered him. "You will see greater things than that." "I tell all of you the truth," He said to him: "You will see *heaven opened and the angels of God going up and coming down* ⁴⁶ on the Son of Man."

Jesus Changes Water to Wine

Two days later there was a wedding at Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and His disciples also had been invited to the wedding.

When the people ran out of wine, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They don't have any wine."

"Will you leave that to Me, woman?" Jesus asked her. "It isn't the right time yet."

His mother told the servants, "*Do anything He tells you.*" ⁴⁷

Six stone water jars were standing there for the religious washings of the Jews. Each jar held eighteen to twenty-seven gallons.

"Fill the jars with water," Jesus told them. And they filled them to the top. "Now take some of it," He told them, "and bring it to the manager of the dinner." So they brought it to him.

When the manager tasted the water that had been changed to wine, he didn't know where it was from, only

the servants who had dipped the water knew. So the manager called the bridegroom. "Everybody serves his good wine first," he told him, "and when people have drunk much, then the poorer wine. You have kept the good wine until now."

Jesus did this, the first of His miracles, at Cana in Galilee. He showed His glory, and so His disciples believed in Him.

After this He, His mother, His brothers, and His disciples went down to Capernaum and stayed there a few days.

Jesus Cleanses the Temple

The Passover of the Jews was near, so Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

He found men selling cattle, sheep, and pigeons in the temple, and the money-changers were sitting there. So He made a whip of small ropes and drove them all, with their sheep and cattle, out of the temple. He poured out the coins of the money-changers and upset their tables.

"Take these away!" He told those who sold pigeons. "Don't make My Father's house a house for business."

His disciples remembered that the Bible said, *The zeal for Your house will consume Me.*⁴⁸

The Jews turned to Him. "By what miracle can You prove to us that You may do this?" they asked.

"Destroy this temple," Jesus answered them, "and I will raise it within three days."

"It took forty-six years to build this temple," said the Jews, "and You are going to raise it within three days?"

But the temple He spoke of was His own body. After He rose from the dead, His disciples remembered that He had said this, and they believed the Bible and what Jesus had said.

Nicodemus

Now while He was at the Passover festival in Jerusalem, many believed in His name, because they saw the miracles He was doing. Jesus, however, would not trust Himself to them, because He knew everybody. He didn't need to be told about a man, because He knew what was in him.

There was a Pharisee by the name of Nicodemus, a ruler among the Jews. He came to Jesus one night. "Master," he said to Him, "we know You are a teacher who has come from God, because no one can do these miracles that You do unless God is with him."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered him. "If anyone isn't born from above, he cannot see the kingdom of God."

"How can anyone be born when he is old?" Nicodemus asked Him. "He cannot go back into his mother's body and be born again, can he?"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered him: "If anyone isn't born of the water and the Spirit, he cannot come into the kingdom of God. Anything that is born of the flesh is flesh, but anything that is born of the Spirit is spirit. Don't be surprised that I told you, 'You must all be born from above.' The wind blows where it pleases, and you hear its sound, but you don't know where it is coming from or where it is going. That's how it is when anyone is born of the Spirit."

"How can that be?" Nicodemus asked Him.

"You are the teacher in Israel," Jesus said to him, "and yet you don't know this? I assure you, we tell what we know and we testify to what we have seen. Yet you people don't accept our testimony. If you don't believe the earthly things I told you, how will you believe Me if I tell you heavenly things? No one has gone up to heaven except the One who came down from heaven, namely, the Son of Man.

"As Moses lifted up the snake in the desert, so the Son of Man must be lifted up that everyone who believes in Him may have everlasting life. God so loved the world that He gave His only Son that everyone who believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life. God sent His Son into the world, not to condemn the world but to save the world through Him. If anyone believes in Him, he is not condemned. But if anyone will not believe, he is already condemned, because he doesn't believe in the name of the only Son of God. This is why people are condemned: The Light has come into the world, but people loved darkness rather than the Light, because they have been doing wrong. Everyone who does wrong hates the Light and will not come to the Light, because he doesn't want his works to be seen in the light. But anyone who lives in the truth comes to the Light in order that his works may be seen to have been done in God."

John Is Happy in Jesus

After this, Jesus and His disciples went into the country of Judea, where He spent some time with them and baptized.

John, too, was baptizing in Aenon, near Salim, because there was much water there. So people came and were baptized. John had not yet been put in prison.

John's disciples started a discussion with a Jew about religious cleansing, and they came to John. "Teacher," they told him, "He who was with you on the other side of the Jordan and to whom you gave your testimony — He is here. He is baptizing, and everybody is going to Him."

"A man can get only what Heaven has given him," John answered. "You yourselves are witnesses that I said, 'I am not the promised Savior, but I am sent ahead of Him.'"

"The One who has the bride is the Bridegroom. The Bridegroom's friend stands and listens to Him. And when

the Bridegroom speaks, He makes His friend very happy. Now that is my happiness, and it is complete. He must grow, while I must become less. The One who comes from above is above all others.

"Anyone who comes from the earth is earthly and speaks earthly things. The One who comes from heaven is above all others. He tells the truth of what He has seen and heard, but nobody accepts the truth He speaks. But anyone who has accepted the truth He speaks has acknowledged as with a seal that God is true. The One whom God has sent speaks God's words because God gives Him His Spirit in an unlimited way. The Father loves the Son and has put everything into His hands. Anyone who believes in the Son has everlasting life. But anyone who will not listen to the Son will not see life, but God will always be angry with him."

John in Prison

John continued to rebuke Herod the Tetrarch for all the evil he had done, and especially because he had married Herodias, the wife of his brother Philip. "It isn't right for you to have your brother's wife," John told Herod. Then, on top of everything, Herod had John arrested, bound, and locked up in prison.

The Lord found out that John had been put in prison and that the Pharisees had heard, "Jesus is making and baptizing more disciples than John," although it wasn't really Jesus, but His disciples, who baptized. Then he left Judea.

His First Tour of Galilee

The Samaritan Woman

On His way back to Galilee Jesus had to go through Samaria. He came to a town in Samaria by the name of Sychar, near the piece of land that Jacob had given his son Joseph. Jacob's Well was there. So Jesus, tired as He was from traveling, sat down at the well. It was about 6 o'clock in the evening.

A woman of Samaria came to draw water. "Give Me a drink," Jesus said to her. His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.

The Samaritan woman asked Him: "How can a Jew like You ask a Samaritan woman like me for a drink?" The Jews don't drink from the same jar with the Samaritans.

"If you knew the free gift of God," Jesus answered her, "and who it is that says to you, 'Give Me a drink,' you would have asked Him, and He would have given you living water."

"Sir, You have nothing to draw water with," she told Him, "and the well is deep. Where, then, do You get living water from a spring? Are You greater than Jacob, our ancestor, who gave us the well? He himself drank from it as well as his sons and his animals."

"Everyone who drinks of this water," Jesus answered her, "will get thirsty again. Anyone who drinks of the water that I will give him will never get thirsty again. But the water that I will give him will in him become a spring of water bubbling up to everlasting life."

"Sir, give me this water," the woman told Him. "Then I will not get thirsty or have to come out here to draw water."

"Go, call your husband," Jesus told her, "and come back here."

"I don't have any husband," the woman answered.

"You are right when you say, 'I don't have any husband,'" Jesus told her. "You've had five husbands, and the man you have now is not your husband. You've told the truth!"

"Sir," the woman said to Him, "I see You are a prophet! Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you say Jerusalem is the place where people must worship."

"Believe Me, woman," Jesus told her, "the time will come when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You don't know what you are worshiping. We know what we are worshiping, because salvation comes from the Jews. But the time is coming, in fact it is here now, when true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and in truth. The Father is looking for such people to worship Him. God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and in truth."

The woman said to Him, "I know that the promised Savior" (who is called Christ) "is coming. When He comes, He will tell us everything."

"I am He — I who am talking to you," Jesus told her.

Just then His disciples came, and they were surprised that He was talking to a woman. Yet no one asked, "What do You want?" or, "Why are You talking to her?"

Then the woman left her water jar and went back into the town. "Come," she told the people, "see a man who told me everything I have done. Could He be the promised Savior?" They left the town and were coming to Him.

During this time the disciples were urging Him, "Master, eat."

He told them, "I have food to eat which you don't know about."

"Did anyone bring Him something to eat?" the disciples asked one another.

"My food is to do the will of Him who sent Me," Jesus told them, "and to finish His work.

"Don't you say, 'Four more months, and then it will be time to harvest'? I tell you, Look up and see how the fields are white and ready to be cut. Already the reaper is getting his wages and gathering grain for everlasting life, so that the sower is happy with the reaper. Here the saying is true, 'One man sows, another reaps.' I sent you to reap a field in which you had done no work. Others have done the hard work, and you have succeeded them in their work."

Many Samaritans in that town believed in Him, because the woman had testified, "He told me everything I have done." When the Samaritans came to Him, they asked Him to stay with them. And He stayed there two days. Then many more believed because of what He said. "We no longer believe on account of what you said," they told the woman, "because we ourselves have heard Him, and we know that He certainly is the Savior of the world."

On the second day He left.

Jesus Returns to Galilee

With the power of the Spirit, Jesus went back to Galilee. When He came there, the people in Galilee welcomed Him. They had seen all He had done at the festival in Jerusalem, since they, too, had gone to the festival. Now the news about Him spread all over the surrounding country.

Teaching in their synagogs, He began to preach God's good news: "The time has come, and the kingdom of God is here. Repent, and believe the good news." And everybody praised Him.

An Officer's Son

Then Jesus went again to Cana in Galilee, where He had changed water to wine.

One of the king's officers lived at Capernaum. Now, his son was sick. When he heard that Jesus had come from Judea to Galilee, he went to Him and asked Him to come down and heal his son, who was dying.

"If you don't see signs and miracles," Jesus told him, "you won't believe."

"Lord, come down before my little boy dies," the officer said to Him.

"Go," Jesus told him, "your son lives." The man believed what Jesus told him and left.

On his way back his slaves met him and told him his boy was alive. So he asked them at what time he had gotten better. They told him: "Yesterday at 7 o'clock in the evening the fever left him." Then the father knew it was the same hour when Jesus had told him, "Your son lives." And he and everybody at his house believed.

This was the second miracle that Jesus did after He had come from Judea to Galilee.

Nazareth Rejects Jesus

Then Jesus came to Nazareth, where He had been brought up. On the Sabbath He went into the synagog as He usually did. When He got up to read, the book of the prophet Isaiah was handed to Him. He opened the book and found the place where it says:

The Spirit of the Lord is on Me because —

He has anointed Me

To bring the good news to the poor.

He has sent Me

To announce to prisoners that they are free,

to the blind that they will see again,

To free those who are broken down,

To announce a season when the Lord welcomes people.⁴⁹

He closed the book, gave it back to the attendant, and sat down. Everybody in the synagog kept looking attentively at Him as He said to them: "What is written here has come true today as you are listening."

All spoke well of Him and wondered about the beautiful words that He spoke. "Isn't this Joseph's son?" they were asking.

He answered them: "You will undoubtedly quote to Me the proverb, 'Doctor, heal yourself!' and will say, 'We've heard about everything You did in Capernaum. Do the same here in Your home town.' I tell you," He added, "it is true that no prophet is accepted or honored in his own country. Let Me tell you this truth: There were many widows in Israel in the days of Elijah when it didn't rain for three years and six months and there was a great famine all over the country. Yet Elijah was sent to none of them — only to *a widow at Zarephath in the territory of Sidon.*⁵⁰ And there were many lepers in Israel at the time of the prophet Elisha. Yet none of them was made clean — only Naaman from Syria."⁵¹

As the people in the synagog were listening, all of them got furious. They got up, pushed Him out of the town, and took Him to a brow of the hill on which their town was built, to hurl Him down the cliff. But He walked right through them and went away.

At Home in Capernaum

Leaving Nazareth, Jesus went down and made His home in Capernaum, a town by the lake in Galilee, in the country of Zebulun and Naphtali. So He fulfilled what the prophet Isaiah had said:

Land of Zebulun and land of Naphtali,

The way to the Sea, across the Jordan,

Galilee of the Gentiles!

*The people who were sitting in darkness have seen
a great light.*

*For those who were sitting in the land of the shadow
of death a light has arisen.*⁵²

"Follow Me"

As He was walking along the shore of the Lake of Galilee, He saw two brothers, Simon, also called Peter, and his brother Andrew (who were fishermen) casting a net into the lake.

"Come, follow Me," Jesus told them, "and I will make you fishers of men."

Immediately they left their nets and followed Him.

Going on a little farther, He saw two other brothers, James, the son of Zebedee, and his brother John. They were in a boat with their father Zebedee and were mending their nets. Then He called them, and immediately they left the boat and their father Zebedee with the hired men in the boat, and they followed Him.

Jesus Drives Out a Devil

Then they went to Capernaum. The next Sabbath, Jesus went into the synagogue and began to teach. He astonished the people by His teaching, because He taught them as one who had authority and not like the experts in the Law.

Just then there was a man in their synagogue who had the spirit of an unclean devil. "Oh, leave us alone, Jesus of Nazareth!" he screamed aloud. "You have come to destroy us! I know who You are. You're God's Holy One."

"Be quiet," Jesus rebuked him, "and come out of him." The unclean spirit shook the man, hurled him into the crowd, shouted aloud, and came out of him without doing him any harm.

All were so astonished that they argued with one another. "What kind of speaking is this?" they asked. "A new teaching! With authority and power He gives orders to the unclean spirits, and they obey Him and leave."

The news about Him spread quickly to every place in all the surrounding country of Galilee.

Peter's Mother-in-Law

Right after leaving the synagogue Jesus went with James and John into the home of Simon Peter and Andrew.

There Jesus saw Simon's mother-in-law lying sick with a high fever. And so the first thing they did was to ask Him to help her.

He went to her and, bending over her, He ordered the fever to leave, taking her hand and raising her. The fever left her, and immediately she got up and waited on them.

In the evening, when the sun had gone down, the whole town gathered at His door. All who had patients suffering from various sicknesses brought them to Him. Many of them were possessed by devils. Jesus laid His hands on each of

them, healed them, and drove out the spirits by speaking to them. The devils went out of many, shouting, "You are the Son of God." He rebuked them and would not let the devils go on speaking, because they knew He was the promised Savior. In this way what the prophet Isaiah had said was to come true, *He took away our sicknesses and carried our diseases.*⁵³

Preaching in Galilee

In the morning, long before daylight, Jesus got up and went out to a lonely place, and there He prayed. Simon and those who were with him searched for Jesus. When they found Him, they told Him, "Everybody is looking for You."

"Let us go somewhere else," He told them, "to the small towns that are near and preach there too. That is why I'm here."

The crowds were looking for Him. When they came to Him, they tried to keep Him from leaving them. But He said to them: "I have to tell the good news of the kingdom of God also in other towns; that is what I was sent to do."

Then He went around everywhere in Galilee, teaching in their synagogues and preaching the good news of the Kingdom. He healed every kind of disease and sickness among the people and drove out the devils.

The news about Him spread all over Syria. And the people brought to Him all who were suffering from various diseases and were in great pain, those possessed by devils, the epileptics, and the paralyzed, and He healed them.

Fishers of Men

One day Jesus was standing by the Lake of Galilee, and the people were crowding Him as they were listening to the Word of God. He saw two boats on the shore of the lake. The fishermen had stepped out of them and were washing

the nets. So Jesus got into a boat which belonged to Simon and asked him to go out a little way from the shore. Then He sat down and taught the people from the boat.

When He stopped speaking, He told Simon, "Take the boat out where the water is deep, and let down your nets for a catch."

"Master," Simon answered, "we've worked hard all night and caught nothing. But because You say so, I will let down the nets."

When the men had done this, they caught a very large number of fish, and their nets began to tear. So they waved to their partners in the other boat to come and help them. They came, and now they filled both boats, so that they began to sink.

When Simon Peter saw this, he fell down at the knees of Jesus. "Leave me, Lord," he said. "I am a sinful man." He and all who were with him were astonished at the fish they had caught, and so were James and John, Zebedee's sons, who were Simon's partners.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus told Simon. "From now on you are going to catch men."

So when they had brought the boats to the shore, they left everything and followed Him.

Jesus Heals a Leper

One day Jesus was in a town where there was a man who was leprous all over his body. When he saw Jesus, the leper went to Him. Bowing down to the ground, he begged Him, "Lord, if You want to, You can make me clean."

Jesus felt sorry for him, stretched out His hand, and touched him. "I want to," He said. "Be clean!" Immediately the leprosy left him, and he was made clean.

Then, sternly warning him, Jesus sent him away. He told

him, "Be careful not to say anything to anyone, but go, *let the priest examine*⁵⁴ you, and for your cleansing offer the sacrifices that Moses ordered, to show them that you are healed."

But he went off and talked a lot and spread the news about Jesus. And so large crowds were coming together to hear Jesus and to have their diseases healed. As a result, Jesus could no longer openly go into a town. But He would go away to lonely places and pray. And still the people were coming to Him from everywhere.

Jesus Forgives Sins

Some days later, when Jesus again came to His own town of Capernaum, the people heard, "He is home."

One day, as He was teaching, so many came together that there was no room even in front of the door. He was speaking the Word to them. Pharisees and teachers of the Law were sitting there. They had come from every village in Galilee and Judea and from Jerusalem. And Jesus had the power of the Lord to heal.

Then some people came and brought to Him a paralyzed man lying on a bed and carried by four men. They tried to bring him in and lay him before Jesus. But when they couldn't find a way to bring him to Jesus on account of the crowd, they went up on the roof and started to take off the roof where Jesus was. And so they dug an opening. And then, through the tiles, they let down among the people, right in front of Jesus, the bed on which the paralytic was lying.

When Jesus saw their faith, He said to the paralytic: "Courage, son! Your sins are forgiven." Then the men of the Law and the Pharisees began to question within themselves: "Why does He say this? Who is this fellow that He should speak blasphemies? Who but God alone can forgive sins?"

Immediately Jesus knew in His spirit what they were thinking. "Why do you think evil in your hearts?" He asked them. "Which is easier, to say to this paralyzed man, 'Your sins are forgiven,' or to say, 'Get up, take your bed, and walk'? I want you to know that the Son of Man has power on earth to forgive sins." Then He said to the paralyzed man, "I tell you, get up, take your bed, and go home."

Immediately the man got up in front of them, took the bed on which he had been lying, walked out before all of them, and went home, praising God.

All were amazed to see this, and they were frightened. They praised God, who had given such power to men. "We have seen wonderful things today," they declared. "Never have we seen anything like this!"

Matthew Becomes a Disciple

Again Jesus went out along the lake, and all the people kept coming to Him, and He taught them.

As He passed by, He saw a tax collector by the name of Levi, also called Matthew, the son of Alphaeus, sitting in the tax office. "Follow Me," He told him. And he got up, left everything, and followed Him.

Then Levi gave a big dinner for Him at his home. As Jesus was lying down to eat, a large crowd of tax collectors and sinners came to eat with Jesus and His disciples, because there were many who followed Him.

When the Pharisees, and the men of the Law who were among them, saw Him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they complained to His disciples. "Why do you and your Teacher eat and drink with the tax collectors and sinners?" they asked.

Jesus heard them and answered them: "The sick need a doctor, not those who are healthy and strong. Go and learn what this means: *I like mercy and not sacrifice.*⁵⁵ I didn't come to call righteous people but sinners to repent."

The Bridegroom

Then John's disciples and the Pharisees, who were fasting, came to Jesus. "John's disciples and the disciples of the Pharisees fast often and say prayers," they said. "Why, then, do Your disciples eat and drink?"

"Can you make the friends of the bridegroom mourn and fast while the bridegroom is with them?" Jesus asked them. "As long as they have the bridegroom with them, they cannot fast. The time will come when the bridegroom will be taken away from them, and then they will fast."

He also gave them an illustration:

"Nobody tears a piece of cloth from a new garment and sews the new piece on an old garment. If you do, the new patch will tear away some of the old cloth, and you will also tear the new cloth, and the hole will get worse. Nor will the patch from the new match the old.

"Nobody pours new wine into old wineskins. If you do, the new wine will burst the skins and run out, and the wine and the skins will be lost. But new wine must be poured into fresh skins; then both are preserved.

"Nobody who has drunk old wine wants the new. 'The old tastes good,' he says."

Sick for 38 Years

After this there was a Jewish festival, and Jesus went up to Jerusalem.

Near the Sheepgate in Jerusalem there is a pool called Bethesda in the Jewish language. It has five porches. In them there used to lie a crowd of people who were sick, blind, lame, and paralyzed. One man who was there had been sick for thirty-eight years. Jesus saw him lying there and found out that he had been sick a long time. "Would you like to get well?" He asked him.

"Lord," the sick man answered Him, "I have nobody to put me into the pool when the water is stirred. And while I'm trying to get there, somebody else steps in ahead of me."

"Get up," Jesus told him, "take your bed, and walk." Immediately the man got well, took his bed, and walked.

That day was a Sabbath. "Today is the day of rest," the Jews told the healed man. "It is wrong for you to carry your bed."

He answered them, "The One who made me well told me, 'Take your bed and walk.'"

They asked him, "Who is the man that told you, 'Take it and walk'?" But the healed man didn't know who He was, because Jesus had disappeared in the crowd that was there.

Later Jesus found him in the temple and said to him: "Look, you are well now. Don't sin any more, or something worse may happen to you."

The man went back and told the Jews it was Jesus who had made him well.

The Son of God

Because Jesus was doing such things on a Sabbath, the Jews began to persecute Him. But Jesus answered them: "My Father has been working until now, and so I am working."

Then the Jews were all the more eager to kill Him, because He not only abolished the Sabbath but even called God His own Father, making Himself equal to God.

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered them. "By Himself the Son can do nothing except what He sees the Father doing. The Son does whatever the Father does. The Father loves the Son and shows Him everything He is doing. And He will show Him even greater works than these, so that

you will be surprised. For as the Father wakes up the dead and makes them live, so the Son makes alive whom He wants to make alive.

“The Father does not judge anyone but has entrusted the judgment entirely to the Son, in order that all may honor the Son as they honor the Father. Anyone who doesn’t honor the Son doesn’t honor the Father who sent Him. I tell you the truth: If you listen to what I say and believe Him who sent Me, you have everlasting life, and you will not be judged, but you have come from death to life.

“Let me assure you the hour is coming — it is here now — when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear Him will live. As the Father has life in Himself, so He has given the Son the power of having life in Himself.

“He also has given Him power to judge because He is the Son of Man. This should not surprise you, because the hour is coming when all who are in their graves will hear His voice and will come out. Those who have done good will rise to live; those who have done evil will rise to be condemned. I cannot do anything by Myself. I judge only as I’m told to do, and so My judgment is just, because I’m not trying to do what I want but what He wants who sent Me.

“If I alone testify about Myself, My testimony is not dependable. There is Someone else who is testifying about Me, and I know that what He testifies about Me is true. You have sent to John, and he has testified to the truth. Not that I get My testimony from a man, but I say this in order that you may be saved. He was a lighted lamp that shone, and for a while you wanted to enjoy his light. But I have a greater testimony than John had. The works which the Father has given Me to finish, these works, which I do, testify that the Father has sent Me. The Father who sent Me — He has testified about Me. You have never heard His voice or seen His form. You don’t keep His Word within you because you

don't believe Him whom He has sent. You search the Scriptures, because you think you will have everlasting life in them; and yet they testify about Me! But you don't want to come to Me to have life.

"I don't receive glory from men. But I know that in your hearts you don't love God. I have come in My Father's name, and yet you don't accept Me. If someone else comes in his own name, you will accept him. How can you believe while you accept honor from one another but are not eager to have the honor that comes from the only God?

"Don't think that I am the One who will accuse you before the Father. There is already one who accuses you — Moses, in whom you trust. If you really believed Moses, you would believe Me, because he wrote about Me. But if you don't believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?"

The Lord of the Sabbath

At that time Jesus walked through the grainfields on a Sabbath. His disciples were hungry, and as they went along, they were picking the heads of grain, rubbing them in their hands and eating them.

When some of the Pharisees saw them, they asked Him, "Why do your disciples do what they shouldn't do on a day of rest?"

"Didn't you ever read what David did," Jesus asked them, "when he and his men were in need and got hungry? How he went into the house of God, when Abiathar was high priest, and took the *loaves that had been presented to God*,⁵⁶ which he and his men were not allowed to eat, but only the priests? He ate them and also gave some to his men.

"Or haven't you read in the Law that the priests in the temple work on a Sabbath as on other days, and yet do no

wrong? I tell you, here is something greater than the temple. If you knew what this means, *I like mercy and not sacrifice*,⁵⁵ you would not have condemned the innocent. The Sabbath was made for man and not man for the Sabbath. The Son of Man is Lord also of the Sabbath."

Then He left that place.

The Paralyzed Hand

On another Sabbath Jesus again went into their synagog and taught. And there was a man whose right hand was paralyzed. But the men of the Law and the Pharisees were watching Jesus to see if He would heal him on a Sabbath.

"Is it right to heal on a day of rest?" they asked Him. They wanted to find a way to accuse Him.

Knowing what they were thinking, He said to the man with the paralyzed hand, "Get up and come forward." The man got up and stood there.

"If anyone of you has one sheep," Jesus asked them, "and it falls into a hole on a Sabbath, won't you take hold of it and lift it out? But how much more valuable is a man than a sheep! I ask you, is it right on a Sabbath to do good or to do evil, to save a life or to kill? It is right, then, to do good on a day of rest!"

They were silent. Looking around at all of them, He felt angry as well as sorry because their minds were closed.

Then He told the man, "Stretch out your hand." He stretched it out, and his hand was made healthy again like the other hand.

The Pharisees were furious and began to discuss with one another what they should do to Jesus. They left and immediately plotted with Herod's men to kill Him. Jesus knew about this, and so He left.

Many Are Healed

Jesus withdrew with His disciples to the lake, and large crowds followed Him from the whole country of the Jews, from Judea and Jerusalem, Idumea, the other side of the Jordan, the Ten Towns, and the seacoast of Tyre and Sidon. They heard all He was doing. So they came to hear Him and to have their diseases healed.

He healed them all, also those who were plagued by unclean spirits. Whenever the unclean spirits saw Him, they would fall down before Him and shout, "You are the Son of God." But He strictly ordered them not to tell who He was.

All who had diseases were pressing against Him. All the people were trying to touch Him, because power came from Him, and He healed all of them. To keep the crowd from crushing Him, He told His disciples to have a small boat ready for Him.

In this way what the prophet Isaiah had said was to come true:

*Here is My Servant whom I have chosen,
Whom I love and whom I delight in.
I will put My Spirit on Him,
And He will announce justice to the nations.*

*He will not quarrel or shout.
Nor will anyone hear His voice in the streets.
He will not crush a bruised reed
Or put out a smoking wick,
Until He has made justice victorious.*

And the nations will hope in His name.⁵⁷

The Twelve Apostles

At that time, when He saw the crowds, He went up the hill to pray, and He prayed to God all night.

When it was day, He sat down and called His disciples,

those whom He wanted, and they came to Him. He chose twelve of them and called them apostles. He appointed them to be with Him, to be sent out by Him to preach, and to have power to drive out the devils.

He appointed these twelve: first Simon, to whom He also gave the name ¹Peter, and his brother ²Andrew; ³James, the son of Zebedee, and ⁴John, the brother of James — He also gave these the name Boanerges, which means “thunderbolts”; ⁵Philip and ⁶Bartholomew; ⁷Matthew, the tax collector, and ⁸Thomas; ⁹James, the son of Alphaeus, and ¹⁰Thaddaeus (Judas, the son of James); ¹¹Simon, called Zealot, and ¹²Judas, the man from Kerioth, who became a traitor.

With these He went down and stood on a level place, where there was a large crowd of His disciples.

The Sermon on the Mount

BLESSINGS AND WOES

Jesus looked at His disciples and began to teach them:
Blessed are those who are *poor in spirit*,⁵⁸
because they have the kingdom of heaven.

Blessed are *those who mourn*,
because they will *be comforted*.⁵⁹

Blessed are you who cry now,
because you will laugh.

Blessed are *those who are gentle*,
because they *will own the land*.⁶⁰

Blessed are those who now hunger and thirst to be righteous,
because they will be satisfied.

Blessed are *those who are merciful*,
because *they will find mercy*.⁶¹

Blessed are *those whose hearts are pure*,⁶²
because they will see God.

Blessed are those who make peace,
because they will be called the sons of God.
Blessed are those who are persecuted for doing right,
because they have the kingdom of heaven.
Blessed are you when people hate you, exclude you from
their company, abuse you, persecute you, de-
nounce your name as evil, and lie and tell only
evil about you on account of Me. On that day
be glad and dance with delight, because you
have a great reward in heaven. You see, that
is how their fathers treated the prophets who
lived before you.

But —

Woe to you rich people,
because you've had your comfort.
Woe to you who have filled yourselves with food now,
because you will be hungry.
Woe to you who laugh now,
because you will mourn and cry aloud.
Woe to you when all people speak well of you,
because that is how their fathers treated the false
prophets.

A SALT AND A LIGHT

You are the salt of the earth. If salt loses its taste, how
will it be made salty again? It is no longer good for anything
but to be thrown out and to be trampled on by people.

You are the light of the world. A town cannot be hidden
when it is built on a hill. Nobody lights a lamp and puts it
in a cellar or under a peck-measure. No, it is put on the
lampstand so that people who come in will see it shine. And
it gives light to everybody in the house. So let your light
shine before people that they may see your good works and
praise your Father in heaven.

JESUS KEEPS THE LAW

Don't think that I came to set aside the Law or the Prophets. I didn't come to set them aside but to fulfill them. I tell you the truth, until heaven and earth pass away, not an *i* or the dot of an *i* of the Law will pass away until everything is done. Anyone, then, who sets aside one of the least of these commandments and teaches others to do the same will be called the least in the kingdom of heaven. But anyone who does and teaches what they say will be called great in the kingdom of heaven. I tell you, unless your righteousness is much better than that of the Pharisees and of the experts in the Law, you will never get into the kingdom of heaven.

DON'T KILL

You have heard that long ago the people were told: "*Don't kill.*"⁶³ Whoever kills must answer for it in court."

But I tell you, anyone who gets angry with his brother must answer for it in court. Anyone who calls his brother an "empty head" must go before the highest court. Anyone who calls him a "fool" must go into hellfire.

So if you are offering your gift on the altar and you remember there that your brother has something against you, leave your gift there before the altar and go. First make up with your brother, and then come and offer your gift.

When you quarrel with anyone, quickly be friends again while you are still on the way with him, or your accuser will hand you over to the judge, and the judge to the officer, and you will be put in prison. I tell you the truth, you will never get out until you pay the last cent.

DON'T LUST

You have heard that it was said: "*Don't commit adultery.*"⁶⁴

But I tell you, anyone who looks at a woman to lust

after her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.

If your right eye causes you to sin, tear it out and throw it away. It is better for you to lose a part of your body than to have all of it thrown into hell. And if your right hand causes you to sin, cut it off and throw it away. It is better for you to lose a part of your body than to have all of it go to hell.

It was said: "Anyone who divorces his wife *must give her a divorce paper.*"⁶⁵ But I tell you, anyone who divorces his wife, except for being sexually unfaithful, makes her a partner in adultery. And also the man who marries the divorced woman commits adultery.

DON'T SWEAR

Again, you have heard that long ago the people were told: "*Don't swear to a lie,*"⁶⁶ and "*Give to the Lord what you swear to give Him.*"⁶⁷ But I tell you, don't swear at all, not by *heaven*, because it is *God's throne*; nor by *the earth*, because it is *His footstool*;⁶⁸ nor by *Jerusalem*, because it is *the city of the great King.*⁶⁹ And don't swear by your head, because you cannot make one hair white or black. Just say, "Yes, yes; no, no." Anything more comes from the Evil One.

LOVE YOUR ENEMIES

You have heard that it was said, "*An eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth.*"⁷⁰ But I tell you, don't oppose an evil man. But rather, if anyone hits you on your right cheek, turn and offer him the other cheek also. If anyone wants to sue you for your shirt, let him have your coat too. If anyone takes your coat, don't stop him from taking your shirt. If anyone will force you to go one mile, go two miles with him.

If anyone asks you for anything, give it to him, and don't turn away when anyone wants to borrow from you. And if anyone takes what is yours, don't insist on getting it back.

You have heard that it was said, "*Love your neighbor,*"⁷¹ and hate your enemy." But I tell you who are listening, love your enemies, be kind to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, and pray for those who insult you and persecute you. In this way you will show that you are sons of your Father in heaven. He makes His sun rise on people whether they are evil or good, and lets rain fall on them whether they do right or wrong.

If you love those who love you, what reward have you? Don't the tax collectors do that too? Even sinners love those who love them. If you treat only your brothers kindly, are you doing anything extraordinary? Don't the heathen do that too? If you help those who help you, what special favor do you expect? Sinners do that too. If you lend anything to those from whom you hope to get something, what special favor do you expect? Sinners also lend to sinners to get back what they lend. No, love your enemies, help them, lend to them, and expect to get nothing back. Then you will have a great reward and will be the sons of the most high God, since He is kind to wicked people who don't thank Him. Be merciful as your Father is merciful. *Be perfect,*⁷² as your Father in heaven is perfect.

DON'T BLOW YOUR HORN

Be careful not to do your good works before people in order to be seen by them. If you do, your Father in heaven will not reward you. So when you give to the poor, don't blow your horn, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets to be praised by people. I tell you, really that's all the reward they will get. When you give to the poor, don't let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, that your giving may be secret. Then your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

When you fast, don't look sad like the hypocrites. They disfigure their faces to show people they are fasting. I tell

you, really that's all the reward they will get. But when you fast, anoint your head, and wash your face so that nobody will see you are fasting except your Father who is with you when you are alone. And your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

PRAY

When you pray, don't be like the hypocrites, who like to stand praying in the synagogues and on street corners in order to be seen by people. I tell you, really that's all the reward they will get. But when you pray, *go into your own room, shut your door, and then pray⁷⁸* to your Father, who is with you when you are alone, and your Father who sees what is secret will reward you.

When you pray, don't say meaningless words, like the heathen, who think they will be heard if they talk a lot. Don't be like them. Your Father knows what you need before you ask Him.

Pray this way:

Our Father in heaven —
Let Your name be holy,
Your kingdom come,
And Your will be done on earth as it is done in heaven.
Give us today our daily bread.
And forgive us our sins as we have forgiven those who
sin against us.
And don't bring us into temptation,
But deliver us from evil.*

If you will forgive the sins of others, your Father in heaven will forgive you. But if you will not forgive the sins of others, your Father will not forgive your sins.

"Suppose one of you has a friend," Jesus said to His disciples, "and you go to him at midnight and ask him: 'Friend,

* The doxology is found in later manuscripts: "You are the King who rules with power and glory forever. Amen."

lend me three loaves, because my friend has come to me on a trip and I have nothing to serve him.' Will he answer from inside the house: 'Don't bother me. The door is already locked, and my children and I are in bed. I can't get up and give you anything?' I tell you, he may not get up and give you anything just because he is your friend, but because you persist, he will get up and give you anything you need.

"So I tell you: Ask, and it will be given to you. Search, and you will find. Knock, and the door will be opened for you. Anyone who asks receives; anyone who searches finds; and for anyone who knocks, the door will be opened.

"If your son asks you, his father, for bread, will any one of you give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will you give him a snake instead of a fish? Or if he asks for an egg, will you give him a scorpion? Now if you, though you are bad, know enough to give your children good gifts, how much more will your Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit and other good things to those who ask Him!"

TREASURES

Don't store up for yourselves treasures on earth,
Where moth and rust destroy them
And thieves break in and steal.

But store up for yourselves treasures in heaven,
Where no moth or rust destroy them
And no thieves break in and steal.

Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.

Your eye is the lamp of your body. When your eye is healthy, your whole body has light. But when your eye is sick, your whole body will be dark. How dark it is when the light in you is dark! So consider whether the light in you is dark. But if your whole body has light and no part of it is dark, all of it will have light just as when a lamp shines brightly on you.

Nobody can serve two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You can't serve God and money.

DON'T WORRY

So I tell you, Don't worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink or what you will wear on your bodies. Isn't life more than food, and the body more than clothing?

Look at the birds in the air. They don't sow or reap or gather anything into barns, but your Father in heaven feeds them. Aren't you worth more than they? Who among you can by worrying add anything to his life?

And why do you worry about your clothes? Think of the flowers in the field, how they grow. They don't work, and they don't spin. Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory didn't dress like one of these. If that is how God dresses the grass in the field, which lives today and tomorrow is thrown into a stove, will He not much more certainly dress you — who trust Him so little?

So don't worry and say: "What are we going to eat?" or "What are we going to drink?" or "What are we going to wear?" The heathen strive for all that. Besides, your Father in heaven knows you need all that. But strive first for the kingdom of God and how to be righteous before Him, and then you will also get all these other things.

So — don't worry about tomorrow. Tomorrow will take care of itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own.

CRITICIZE YOURSELF

Don't judge, and you will not be judged. As you judge others, so you will be judged. Don't condemn, and you will not be condemned. Forgive, and you will be forgiven. Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed together,

shaken down, and running over, will be put into your lap. You see, the measure you use in giving will be used in giving back to you.

He gave them an illustration: Can a blind man lead another blind man? Will not both fall into a ditch? A pupil is not above his teacher. But anyone who is well trained will be like his teacher.

And why do you look at the speck in your brother's eye and don't notice the log in your own eye? How can you say to your brother, "Brother, let me take the speck out of your eye," as long as you don't see the log in your own eye? You hypocrite, first throw the log out of your own eye. Then you will see clearly enough to take the speck out of your brother's eye.

PEARLS TO THE PIGS

Don't give anything holy to the dogs. Don't throw your pearls to the pigs. Or they will trample them under their feet and then turn and tear you to pieces.

THE GOLDEN RULE

Do for others all you want them to do for you. That is the Law and the Prophets.

THE NARROW GATE

Go through the narrow gate. The gate is wide, and the road is broad, that leads to destruction, and many are going there on it. But the gate is small, and the road is narrow, that leads to life, and only a few are finding it.

FALSE PROPHETS

Beware of false prophets. They come to you dressed like sheep but in their hearts are greedy wolves.

You will know them by what they do. Every tree is known by its fruit. Do people pick grapes or figs from thorn-bushes and from thistles? No, every good tree bears good

fruit, while a bad tree bears bad fruit. A good tree cannot bear bad fruit, and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Any tree that doesn't bear good fruit is cut down and thrown into the fire.

A good man produces good things from the good treasure of his heart, and an evil man produces evil from his evil treasure. What you say flows from your heart.

Why do you call Me, "Lord, Lord," but don't do what I tell you? Not everyone who says to Me, "Lord, Lord," will get into the kingdom of heaven; only he who does the will of My Father in heaven. Many will say to Me on that Day: "Lord, Lord, didn't we *prophesy in Your name*,"⁷⁴ drive out devils in Your name, and do many mighty works in Your name?" Then I will tell them frankly: "I never knew you. *Get away from Me, you who are so busy doing evil.*"⁷⁵

BUILD ON A ROCK

I will show you what kind of man anyone is who comes to Me and hears and does what I say. He is like an intelligent man who built a house. He dug deep and laid the foundation on a rock. The rain poured down, and there was a flood. The torrents came, the winds blew, and they dashed against that house. But they couldn't move it, because it was built in the right way. It didn't go down, because its foundation was on the rock.

Everyone who hears what I say but doesn't do it is like a foolish man who built his house without a foundation, on sand. The rain poured down, the torrents came, the winds blew, and they dashed against that house. Immediately that house collapsed and went down with a great crash.

HIS AUDIENCE

When Jesus had finished all He had to say, the crowds who heard Him were amazed at His teaching. He taught them with authority and not like their experts in the Law. As He went down the hill, large crowds followed Him.

His Second and Third Tour of Galilee

A Believing Captain

Then He went to Capernaum. There a slave of a certain captain was sick. The slave was dear to him, and now he was dying. Since the captain had heard about Jesus, he sent some Jewish elders to tell Him: "Lord, my slave is lying sick at home. He is paralyzed and suffering terribly," and to ask Him to come and save the life of his slave. They came to Jesus and earnestly pleaded with Him, "He deserves to have you do this for him, because he loves our people and he built the synagog for us."

"I will go and heal him," Jesus said. So He went with them.

He wasn't far from the house when the captain sent friends to tell Him: "Lord, don't bother, because I'm not

good enough to have you come under my roof. That's why I also didn't think I was worthy to come to You. But just say a word, and my slave will be healed. I am a soldier who has to obey others, and I have soldiers under me. I say to one of them, 'Go,' and he goes. And to another, 'Come,' and he comes. And to my slave, 'Do this,' and he does it."

Surprised to hear him say this, Jesus turned to the people who were following Him. "I tell you," He said, "I certainly haven't found anyone in Israel who has so great a faith. I also tell you, many will come *from the east and the west*,⁷⁶ and will eat with Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob in the kingdom of heaven, but those who were born to be the heirs of the Kingdom will be thrown into the darkness outside. There they will weep and gnash their teeth."

"Go," Jesus told the captain, "just as you believed, so it will be."

The slave was healed in that hour. When the men who had been sent went back to the house, they found the slave well again.

Jesus Raises a Widow's Son

Soon after this, Jesus went to a town called Nain, and His disciples and a large crowd went with Him. As He came near the gate of the town, a dead man was carried out. He was his mother's only son, and she was a widow. A large crowd from the town was with her.

When the Lord saw her, He felt sorry for her. "Don't cry," He told her.

He went up to the open coffin and touched it, and the men who were carrying it stood still. "Young man," He said, "I tell you, wake up."

The dead man sat up and began to speak. And Jesus *gave him to his mother.*⁷⁷

They were all overawed, and they praised God. "A great

prophet has arisen among us," they said, and "God has come to help His people." This story about Jesus spread all over the country of the Jews and in all the surrounding territory.

John Sends Two Disciples

John's disciples told him in prison about all that Christ was doing. Then John called two of his disciples and sent them to ask the Lord, "Are You the One who is coming, or should we look for someone else?"

The men came to Jesus and said, "John the Baptizer sent us to ask You, 'Are You the One who is coming, or should we look for someone else?'"

Just then He had healed many people of their diseases, ailments, and evil spirits, and had given sight to many who were blind.

"Go," Jesus answered them, "tell John what you hear and see. *The blind see*, the lame walk, the lepers are made clean, the *deaf hear*, the dead are raised, and *the poor hear the good news*.⁷⁸ Blessed is anyone who does not turn against Me."

Jesus Talks About John

After John's messengers were gone, Jesus began to speak to the crowds about John:

"What did you go out into the wilderness to see — a reed shaken by the wind? Yes, what did you go out to see — a man dressed in soft robes? The people who wear fine clothes and live in luxury you will find in the palaces of kings.

"Yes, what did you go out to see — a prophet? Let me assure you, he is even more than a prophet. All the Prophets and the Law prophesied up to the time of John, but he (if you are willing to accept it) is the Elijah who must come. He is the one of whom it is written, *I will send My messenger*

ahead of You to prepare Your way before ⁷⁹ You. I tell you, certainly no woman's son has yet appeared who is greater than John the Baptizer. Yet the least in the kingdom of heaven is greater than John. If you can hear, listen!

"By letting John baptize them, all the people who heard him, even the tax collectors, admitted God to be right. But the Pharisees and the teachers of the Law, by not letting John baptize them, rejected what God had planned for them. From the time of John the Baptizer until now the kingdom of heaven has been suffering violence, and violent men try to take it by force.

"How shall I picture the people of this age? What are they like? They are like little children sitting in the market place and calling to one another: 'We played a tune on the flute for you, but you didn't dance. We sang a funeral song, but you didn't beat your breasts and weep.' John the Baptizer has come; he doesn't eat bread or drink wine, and you say, 'There's a devil in him!' The Son of Man has come; He eats and drinks, and you say, 'Look at Him! He eats and drinks too much and is a friend of tax collectors and sinners.' And yet all who live by wisdom and do what she says show that she is right."

"She Loved Much"

One of the Pharisees invited Jesus to eat with him. He went into the Pharisee's home and lay down for the meal.

There was a sinful woman in the town. When she found out that He was eating at the Pharisee's home, she brought an alabaster flask of perfume and stood behind Him at His feet. She was weeping, and she began to wet His feet with her tears. Then she dried His feet with the hair of her head and tenderly kissed them and poured perfume on them.

The Pharisee who had invited Jesus saw this and said to himself: "If He were a prophet, He would know who is

touching Him and what kind of woman she is. She is a sinner."

"Simon," Jesus answered him, "I have something to tell you."

"Say it, Teacher," he said.

"Two men owed a moneylender some money. One owed him five hundred denarii, and the other fifty. Since they couldn't pay it back, he was kind enough to cancel the debts of both of them. Now which of the two will love him most?"

"I suppose," Simon answered, "the one who had the biggest debt canceled."

"You are right," Jesus told him. Then, turning to the woman, He said to Simon: "You see this woman? I came into your home, and you didn't give Me any water for My feet. But she wet my feet with tears and dried them with her hair. You didn't give Me any kiss, but ever since I came in, she hasn't stopped kissing My feet. You didn't pour any oil on My head, but she poured perfume on My feet. That is why I tell you, her sins, many as they are, are forgiven. You see, she has loved much. Of course, he loves only a little to whom little is forgiven."

Then He said to her, "Your sins are forgiven." His fellow guests began to ask among themselves, "Who is this that He should even forgive sins?"

Jesus said to the woman: "Your faith has saved you. Go in peace!"

Through Galilee

After this Jesus traveled through every town and village and preached the good news of the kingdom of God. The Twelve were with Him. Also some women who had been healed of evil spirits and diseases: Mary, also called a woman from Magdala (seven devils had gone out of her); Johanna,

the wife of Chusa, Herod's manager; Susanna, and many other women. They supported Jesus and His disciples with their property.

Power over the Devil

Then Jesus came home. The people again crowded together so that they couldn't even eat. When His family heard about it, they went to take charge of Him, because they were saying, "He's out of His mind!"

At that time some people brought to Jesus a man who had a devil and who was blind and couldn't speak. He drove out the devil and healed the speechless man, so that he could speak and see.

All the people were astonished. "Could this be the Son of David?" they asked. When the Pharisees (experts in the Law who had come down from Jerusalem) heard about this, they said: "Be-elzebul is in Him," and "He can drive out the devils only with the help of Be-elzebul, the ruler of the devils."

Knowing what they were thinking, Jesus called them to Him and spoke to them with illustrations:

"How can Satan drive out Satan? If any kingdom is disunited, that kingdom cannot stand. It loses its people, and one house falls on another. And no town or home that is disunited can ever stand. Now if Satan rebels against himself and drives himself out, he is at war with himself. His kingdom cannot stand, but his end has come. I say this because you claim that I drive out the devils with the help of Be-elzebul. But if I drive out the devils with the help of Be-elzebul, with whose help do your sons drive them out? That is why they will be your judges. But if I drive out the devils by the finger of God, that is, by the Spirit of God, then the kingdom of God has come to you.

"When a strong man, completely armed, guards his

palace, his property is not disturbed. How can anyone go into the strong man's house and take away his goods without first tying up the strong man? But when someone stronger than he attacks him and defeats him, he will take away his whole armor in which he trusted, and then rob his house and distribute his spoils.

"Anyone who is not with Me is against Me, and anyone who does not help Me gather scatters. So I tell you the truth: Anything that people do will be forgiven, their sins and their blasphemies, though they may blaspheme ever so much. But anyone who blasphemes the Holy Spirit will never be forgiven. Anyone who speaks against the Son of Man will be forgiven, but anyone who speaks against the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven in this world or in the next. Yes, he is guilty of an everlasting sin." He said this because they had said, "The Spirit in Him is unclean."

"Either the tree is good, and then its fruit is good. Or the tree is bad, and then its fruit is bad. You can tell what a tree is by its fruit. Brood of snakes, how can you who are so evil say anything good? What you say flows from your hearts. A good man produces good things from his good treasure, but an evil man produces evil from his evil treasure. But I tell you, on Judgment Day people will have to give an account of every useless word that they speak. By your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned."

The Sign of Jonah

Then, in order to test Him, some of the experts in the Law and some Pharisees demanded that He show them some wonderful proof from heaven. "Teacher," they said, "we want to see You do a sign."

As the crowds were gathering around Him, He said: "These people of our time are wicked and unfaithful. They

are looking for a sign, but the only sign they will get is the prophet Jonah. As Jonah became a sign to the people of Nineveh, so the Son of Man will be a sign to these people. As *Jonah was in the belly of the big fish three days*,⁸⁰ so the Son of Man will be in the bosom of the earth three days. The men of Nineveh will stand up in the Judgment with these people and condemn them, because they repented when Jonah preached. And here you see more than Jonah. The queen from the south will stand up in the Judgment with these people and condemn them, because she came from the ends of the earth to hear Solomon's wisdom. But here you see more than Solomon.

"When the unclean spirit comes out of a man, he goes through dry places looking for rest, but he doesn't find any. Then he says, 'I will go back to the home I left.' He comes and finds it empty, swept, and decorated. Then he goes and takes home with him seven other spirits worse than himself, and they go in and live there. In the end that man is worse than he was in the beginning. That's what will happen to the wicked people of today."

The Mother and Brothers of Jesus

When Jesus said this, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to Him, "Happy is the mother who bore You and nursed You."

"Oh, no," He said, "happy are those who listen to the Word of God and keep it."

He was still speaking to the people when His mother and His brothers came. They stood outside and tried to speak to Him, but they couldn't get near Him on account of the crowd. So they sent someone to Him to ask Him to come out. As the crowd was sitting around, Jesus was told: "Your mother and Your brothers are standing outside. They want to see You and speak to You."

"Who is My mother," He asked the man that told Him, "and who are My brothers?" Then, looking around at those who sat in a circle around Him and pointing with His hand to His disciples, He said: "These are My mother and My brothers. Anyone who listens to the Word of God and does what God, My Father in heaven, wants him to do, he is My brother and sister and mother."

The Sower

That same day Jesus left the house and sat down by the lake and began to teach. A large crowd gathered around Him, and the people kept coming to Him also from each of the towns. So He stepped into a boat and sat in it on the lake while all the people stood on the shore, facing the lake. Then He began to teach them many things in parables.

"Listen to Me!" He said as He taught them. "A sower went out to sow his seed. As he was sowing, some seed fell along the road and was trampled on, and the birds in the air came and ate it.

"Some seed fell on rocky ground, where it didn't have much soil. Because the soil wasn't deep, the seed came up immediately. But the sun rose and scorched it, and it withered, because it had no moisture and had not taken root.

"Some seed fell among thorns. The thorns grew up with it and choked it, and it produced no grain.

"But some seed fell on good ground. It came up, grew, and produced grain, some a hundredfold, some sixtyfold, and some thirtyfold."

When He had said this, He called out, "If you have ears, listen!"

His disciples asked Him what this parable meant. "Don't you understand this parable?" He asked them. "Then how will you understand any parables? Hear what the parable of the sower means.

"The seed is the Word of God. The sower sows the Word.

"The people along the road where the Word is sown are those who hear the Word of the Kingdom but don't understand it. Then the devil comes and takes the Word out of their hearts to keep them from believing and being saved.

"Similar to these are the people in whom the seed falls on rocky ground. They welcome the Word with joy as soon as they hear it, but it doesn't take root in them. They believe for a while. But when the Word brings them sorrow and persecution and they are tempted, they immediately fall away.

"In others the seed falls among thorns. They hear the Word, but the worries of the world, the deceitful pleasure of riches, the pleasures of life, and the desires for other things come in and choke the Word, and it produces no grain.

"The people in whom the seed falls on good ground are those who hear the Word, understand it, and keep it in a good and honest heart. They continue faithfully to bear fruit, one a hundredfold, another sixtyfold, and another thirtyfold."

Why Jesus Spoke in Parables

In many parables like these Jesus spoke the Word to the crowds as they were able to hear it. He wouldn't tell them anything without using a parable. In this way what the prophet had said was to come true:

*I will open My mouth to speak in parables,
I will tell what has been hidden since the world was
made.*⁸¹

When He was alone with His disciples, He would explain everything to them.

Then the Twelve and the others who were around Him asked Him, "Why do you speak to them in parables?"

"You are given the privilege of knowing the mysteries of the kingdom of God," He answered, "but not those others.

To those who are outside I say everything in parables because while they see, they don't see; and while they hear, they don't hear or understand. In them, more and more, the prophecy of Isaiah is coming true:

You will hear but never understand,

You will look but never see.

These people have become dull at heart and hard of hearing,

And they have shut their eyes.

*And no more will their eyes see, their ears hear,
or their hearts understand,*

Nor will they turn to Me and let Me forgive and heal them.⁸²

Blessed are your eyes because they see,

And your ears because they hear.

Let Me assure you, many prophets and righteous people longed —

To see what you see and didn't see it,

To hear what you hear and didn't hear it.

"Nobody lights a lamp and hides it under a jar or puts it under a bed. No, he puts it on a lampstand so that people who come in may see the light. Everything hidden will be uncovered, and every secret will be revealed and will come to the light. If you have ears to hear, listen!"

He also told them: "Be careful how you hear! The measure you use in giving will be used in giving to you. Yes, even more will be given to you. If you have something, you will be given more, and so you will get more and more. But if you have nothing, even what you think you have will be taken away from you."

Growing by Itself

"The kingdom of God," He said, "is like this: A man will sow seed on the ground. He will sleep through the night

and get up for the day, and the seed will come up and grow, he doesn't know how. The ground by itself produces grain: first the green blade, then the head, then the full wheat in the head. When the grain is ready, he *swings the sickle, because it is time to harvest.*"⁸³

A Mustard Seed and Yeast

"With what should we compare the kingdom of God," He asked, "or what illustration should we use for it?" So He told them another parable.

"The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man took and planted in his garden. It is the smallest of all the seeds on earth. But when it is sown, it comes up and becomes the largest of all the garden plants. It becomes a tree and grows such large branches that the *birds in the air* can come and *make their nests in the shadow of its branches.*"⁸⁴

"With what should I compare the kingdom of God?" He asked again. So He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into a bushel of flour until it was all fermented."

Weeds in the Wheat

Jesus told them another parable:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a man who sowed good seed in his field. But while people were sleeping, his enemy came and sowed weeds among the wheat and went away. When the wheat came up and formed kernels, then the weeds also could be seen.

"Then the slaves of the owner came to him and asked him: 'Master, didn't you sow good seed in your field? Where did the weeds come from?'

"'An enemy did that,' he told them.

“‘Do you want us to go and pull them out?’ the slaves asked him.

“‘No,’ he said, ‘if you pull out the weeds, you may pull up the wheat with them. Let both grow together till the harvest. At harvesttime I will tell the reapers: “Gather the weeds first, and tie them in bundles to be burned, but bring the wheat into my barn.”’”

When Jesus had dismissed the people and had gone into the house, His disciples came to Him and said, “Tell us what the parable of the weeds in the field means.”

“The sower who sows the good seed,” He answered, “is the Son of Man. The field is the world. The good seeds are the sons of the kingdom. The weeds are the sons of the Evil One. The enemy who sowed them is the devil. The harvest is the end of the world. The reapers are the angels. As the weeds are gathered and burned in the fire, so it will be at the end of the world. The Son of Man will send His angels, and they will take out of His kingdom *those who do wrong and all who lead others to do wrong*,⁸⁵ and they will throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will weep and gnash their teeth. Then *the righteous will shine like*⁸⁶ the sun in their Father’s kingdom. If you have ears, listen!”

The Treasure, the Pearl, and the Fish

“The kingdom of heaven is like a treasure buried in a field. When a man found it, he buried it again, and he was so delighted with it that he went and sold all he had and bought that field.

“Again the kingdom of heaven is like a dealer who was looking for fine pearls. When he found a very expensive pearl, he went and sold all he had and bought it.

“Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a net that was let down into the lake, and it gathered all kinds of fish. When it was full, men pulled it on the shore, sat down, and

picked out the good fish and put them in containers but threw the bad ones away. So it will be at the end of the world. The angels will go out and separate the wicked from the righteous and throw them into the fiery furnace, where they will weep and gnash their teeth.

"Did you understand all this?"

"Yes," they answered.

"Therefore every Bible student trained for the kingdom of heaven," He said to them, "is like the owner of a house who brings out of his storeroom new things and old."

When Jesus had finished these parables, He left that place.

Wind and Water Obey Him

In the evening of that day, when Jesus saw a crowd around Him, He urged His disciples to leave with Him and go to the other shore. As He stepped into a boat with His disciples, He said, "Let us cross over to the other side of the lake." Leaving the crowd behind, they took Jesus, just as He was, with them in the boat; there were other boats with Him. They started out. And as they sailed, He fell asleep.

Suddenly a violent storm came down on the lake. The lake was stirred up, and the waves were dashing into the boat and covering it, so that it was already filling up, and they were in danger. Meanwhile He was in the back of the boat, sleeping on a pillow.

So they went and woke Him up. "Master, Master!" they cried. "Save us! We're drowning! Don't You care if we drown?"

Then He got up and ordered the winds and the waves to stop. "Hush!" He said to the lake. "Be still!" And the wind quieted down, and it became very calm.

"Why are you afraid?" He asked them. "Haven't you learned to trust yet?"

The men were amazed and terrified. "What kind of man is He?" they asked one another. "He gives orders even to the winds and the water, and they obey Him!"

The Gerasenes

They sailed to the other side of the lake, to the country of the Gerasenes, which is opposite Galilee.

When He stepped out of the boat on the shore, two men in whom there were devils came out of the burial places to meet Him. They were so savage that nobody could go along that road.

One of the men was from the town. The unclean spirit had had a firm hold on him for a long time. Nobody could bind him any more, not even with a chain. He had often been bound with chains on hands and feet and had been kept under guard, but he tore the handcuffs and ground the chains on his feet to pieces and was driven by the devil into lonely places. Nobody was strong enough to tame him. He hadn't worn any clothes for a long time. He wouldn't stay in a house, but lived in the tombs. Always, day and night, he was in the tombs and in the hills, shrieking and cutting himself with stones.

When he saw Jesus at a distance, he cried out, ran, and bowed down before Him. "Let us alone, Jesus, Son of the most high God!" he shouted. "Did you come here to torture us before it is time? I tell you by God not to torture me." Jesus had been ordering the unclean spirit, "You unclean spirit, come out of the man."

"What is your name?" Jesus asked him.

"My name is Six Thousand," he told Him, "because we are many." Many devils had gone into him. And they begged Him earnestly not to send them out of the country into the bottomless pit.

Far away a herd of many hogs was grazing on the hill-

side. "If You mean to drive us out," the devils kept begging Jesus, "send us to the hogs that we may go into them."

"Go," He told them.

The unclean spirits came out of the man and went into the hogs. Then the whole herd of about two thousand hogs rushed down the cliff into the lake and was drowned in the water.

When the herdsmen saw what had happened, they ran away and told everything in the town and in the country, especially what had happened to the men possessed by devils. Then the whole town started out to see what had happened. They came to Jesus and found the man out of whom the legion of devils had gone, now sitting at the feet of Jesus, dressed and in his right mind; and they were frightened. The men who had seen it told them how the man possessed by devils had been made well, and about the hogs.

Then all the people in the surrounding country of the Gerasenes began to beg Jesus to leave them and their country, because terror had gripped them.

He stepped into a boat and started back. Now the man out of whom the devils had gone begged Jesus to let him go with Him. But Jesus didn't let him. He sent him away and told him "Go home to your people, and tell them how much the Lord God has done for you and how merciful He has been to you."

So the man left and began to tell publicly all over the town and in the Ten Towns how much Jesus had done for him. And all were astonished.

The Daughter of Jairus

When Jesus had again crossed over in the boat to the other side of the lake, a large crowd gathered and welcomed Him, because they were all expecting Him.

While He was talking to the people by the lake, a leader

of the synagog, by the name of Jairus, came, and when he saw Jesus, he knelt at His feet and earnestly pleaded with Him to come to his home because his only daughter, about twelve years old, was dying. "My little daughter is dying," he said, "but come, lay Your hands on her, and she will get well and live."

Jesus and His disciples got up and followed him. As He went, a large crowd began to follow Him and almost crushed Him.

Now there was a woman who had a flow of blood for twelve years. Nobody could heal her. She had suffered much under many doctors and had spent all she had. And she had not been helped at all, but had actually become worse. Since she had heard about Jesus, she came from behind in the crowd. "If I only touch His clothes," she said to herself, "I will get well," and she touched the tassel of His garment. Immediately the blood stopped flowing, and she felt in her body that her trouble was gone and she was healed. At that moment Jesus noticed that power had gone from Him. Turning around in the crowd, He asked, "Who touched My clothes?"

When all denied that they had touched Him, Peter and His other disciples said to Him: "Master, You see how the people are crowding You and pressing against You, and You ask, 'Who touched Me?'"

But He looked around to see her who had done this. "Somebody did touch Me," Jesus said, "I noticed that power went from Me."

When the woman saw that she was discovered, she trembled with fear because she knew what had been done to her. She came, bowed down before Him, and before all the people told Him the whole truth, why she had touched Him and how she had been healed immediately.

"Cheer up, daughter," He told her, "your faith has made

you well. Go in peace, be healthy, and be rid of your trouble." After that the woman was well.

While He was still speaking, some men came from the home of the leader of the synagog. "Your daughter died," they said. "Why should you go on troubling the Teacher?"

Paying no attention to what they said, Jesus told the leader: "Don't be afraid! Only believe, and she will get well."

He let only Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, go with Him. So they came to the home of the leader of the synagog. There He saw the flute players and the noisy crowd, all weeping, wailing aloud, and beating their breasts as they mourned for her. "Why do you make such a noise and weep?" He asked them when He came into the house. "Don't weep, but go away, because the little girl isn't dead; she is sleeping."

They laughed at Him, because they knew she had died. But He put them all outside, took the child's father and mother, and Peter, John, and James, and went in where the child was. He took the child's hand and called, "Talitha, koom!" * which means, "Little girl, I tell you, wake up!"

Her spirit returned, and immediately the girl got up and walked around. Then her parents were utterly amazed. Jesus ordered that she get something to eat. And He strictly ordered them not to tell anyone what had happened. But the news about this spread all over that part of the country.

Two Blind Men

When Jesus left that place, two blind men followed Him and cried, "Have pity on us, You Son of David."

He went into a house, and there the blind men came to Him. "Do you believe that I can do this?" Jesus asked them.

* This means, "Lamb, get up!"

"Yes, Lord," they told Him.

Then He touched their eyes and said, "As you believed, so it must be!" Then they could see again.

"See that nobody finds out about this!" He sternly ordered them. But they went out and spread the news about Him all over that part of the country.

A Dumb Man

As they were going out, a dumb man in whom there was a devil was brought to Him. But as soon as the devil had been put out, the dumb man spoke.

The crowds were astonished and said, "We've never seen anything like this in Israel."

But the Pharisees declared, "He drives out the devils with the help of the ruler of the devils."

His Last Visit to Nazareth

Leaving that place, Jesus went to His home town, and His disciples went with Him. On the Sabbath He began to teach the people in their synagog. Many who heard Him were astonished. "Where did He get this wisdom and the power to do these works?" they asked. "What is this wisdom that is given to Him, and what are these great works that His hands are doing? Isn't He the carpenter, the son of the carpenter and of Mary, and a brother of James, Joseph, Judas, and Simon? And aren't all His sisters here with us? Where did He get all this?" So they turned against Him.

But Jesus told them, "A prophet is without honor only in his home town, among his relatives, and in his own home." Their lack of faith amazed Him. It kept Him from doing many great works there. All He could do was to lay His hands on a few sick people and heal them.

Pray for Workers

Then Jesus traveled through all the towns and villages, teaching people in their synagogues, preaching the good news of the Kingdom, and healing every disease and sickness.

As He saw the crowds, He felt sorry for them, because they were troubled and helpless *like sheep without a shepherd*.⁸⁷ Then He said to His disciples: "There's a great harvest, but there are only a few workers. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers to reap His fields."

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

Calling His twelve disciples together, Jesus began to send them out by twos, and He gave them power and authority to drive out all unclean spirits as well as to heal every disease and sickness. He sent them to preach the kingdom of God and to heal. And He gave them these instructions:

"Don't go among the Gentiles or into any town of the Samaritans. But go to the lost sheep of Israel. And as you go, preach, 'The kingdom of heaven is here.' Heal the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, drive out the devils. Give these things as you received them — without charge.

"Don't take anything with you on the way except a stick. No gold, silver, or copper money in your pockets; no bread and no bag for the way. But have only sandals strapped on your feet. Don't put on two tunics, since a worker earns his food.

"When you go into any town, village, or home, find a person there who is deserving, and stay with him until you leave. When you go into a home, greet it. If the home is deserving, let your peace come to it. But if it is unworthy, let your peace come back to you. If the people of any place will not welcome you or listen to what you say, leave that

house or town, and shake the dust off the soles of your feet as a warning to them. I tell you the truth, on Judgment Day it will be easier for the land of Sodom and Gomorrah than for that town.

"You see, I'm sending you like sheep among wolves. So be wise as snakes and innocent as doves. Be on your guard against men, because they will hand you over to their courts and whip you in their places of worship. On My account you will be dragged before rulers and kings to testify to them and to the nations. But when they hand you over to the authorities, don't worry how you will speak or what you will say. At that time you will be told what to say. It isn't you who are speaking but the Spirit of your Father, who is speaking through you.

"A brother will betray his brother to death, and a father his child. Children will *rebel*⁸⁸ against their parents and kill them. Everybody will hate you on account of Me. But be faithful to the end, and you will be saved. When they hunt you down in one town, flee to another. Let Me assure you, you will not have gone through all the towns of Israel before the Son of Man will come.

"A pupil is no better than his teacher, and a slave no better than his master. It is enough if a pupil proves to be like his teacher and a slave like his master. If people called the Master of the house Be-elzebul, how much more certainly will they say that of the members of His household. So don't be afraid of them.

"All that is covered will be uncovered, and all that is hidden will be known. What I say to you in the dark, tell in the daylight; and what you hear whispered in your ear, preach from the housetops. Don't be afraid of those who kill the body and cannot kill the soul, but fear Him who can destroy soul and body in hell. Aren't two sparrows sold for a cent? And yet not one of them will fall to the ground without your Father's permission. But as for you, even the

hairs on your head are all counted. So don't be afraid. You are worth more than many sparrows. Whoever will confess Me before other people, him will I confess before My Father in heaven. Whoever will deny Me before others, him will I deny before My Father in heaven.

"Don't think that I came to bring peace to the earth. I didn't come to bring peace but a sword. I came to set *a man against his father, a daughter against her mother, a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law. A man's enemies will be in his own home.*⁸⁸ If you love father or mother more than Me, you're not worthy of Me, and if you love son or daughter more than Me, you're not worthy of Me. If you will not take your cross and follow Me, you're not worthy of Me. If you find your life, you will lose it; but if you lose your life for me, you will find it. Anyone who welcomes you welcomes Me; and anyone who welcomes Me welcomes Him who sent Me. Anyone who welcomes a prophet because he is a prophet will get a prophet's reward. Anyone who welcomes a righteous man because he is righteous will get a righteous man's reward. Anyone who will give one of these little ones just a cup of cold water because he is My disciple, I tell you, will certainly not lose his reward."

After Jesus had finished giving His twelve disciples these instructions, He went on from there to teach and preach in their towns. And they left and went from village to village, and everywhere they preached that people should repent, told the good news, drove out many devils, and poured oil on many sick persons and healed them.

Herod Kills John

Herodias had a grudge against John and wanted to kill him, but she couldn't do it. For although Herod also wanted to kill him, he was afraid of John because he knew John was

a righteous servant of God. He also was afraid of the people because they considered John a prophet. So Herod protected him. When he heard John, he was very much disturbed, and yet he liked to hear him.

An opportunity came on Herod's birthday when he gave a dinner for the noblemen, the officers, and the leading men of Galilee. The daughter of Herodias came in and danced before them, and Herod and his guests were delighted with her. "Ask me for anything you want," the king told the girl, "and I will give it to you." And he solemnly swore to her: "*If you ask me, I will give you as much as half of my kingdom.*"⁸⁹

She went out and asked her mother, "What should I ask for?"

"The head of John the Baptizer," her mother told her.

Urged on by her mother, she immediately hurried back to the king and demanded: "I want you to give me right now, here on a platter, the head of John the Baptizer."

The king felt very sorry. But because he had sworn to do it and because of his guests, he didn't want to refuse her. So the king quickly sent a guard and ordered him to bring John's head and to give it to her. The guard went and cut off John's head in prison, brought it on a platter, and gave it to the girl. And the girl took it to her mother and gave it to her.

When John's disciples heard about it, they came and took his body and laid it in a grave. Then they went and told Jesus.

Has John Come Back?

At that time King Herod heard about everything that Jesus was doing, since His name was now well known. Herod was quite puzzled because some people said, "John has risen

from the dead." Others said, "He is Elijah." Still others, "He is a prophet like one of the prophets of long ago."

"I cut off John's head," Herod said to his servants when he heard about it. "Now who is this about whom I'm hearing such things? — This is John the Baptizer! John, whose head I cut off, has risen from the dead. That is why these powers are working in Him." And he wanted to see Jesus.

Jesus Withdraws from Galilee

Looking for Rest

The apostles came back and gathered around Jesus. They told Him all they had done and taught. "Now you come away to some deserted place," He told them, "where you can be alone, and there take a little rest." So many people were coming and going that there wasn't time to eat.

When Jesus also heard about John, He took the apostles with Him, and they went away in a boat to the other side of the Lake of Galilee, which is the Lake of Tiberias, and came near a town by the name of Bethsaida, to a deserted place, in order to be alone. But many people had seen them go and had recognized them or had heard where He was going. And they ran there from all the towns and got there ahead of them. And so a large crowd was following Him because they had seen the miracles He had done on the sick.

When Jesus stepped out of the boat, He saw a large crowd, and He felt sorry for them because they were *like sheep without a shepherd*.⁹⁰ He welcomed them, began to teach them many things about the kingdom of God, and He healed those who needed healing.

Jesus Feeds Five Thousand

When evening came, Jesus went up the hill and sat down there with His disciples. The Jewish festival of the Passover was near.

As Jesus looked up, He saw a large crowd coming to Him. His twelve disciples approached Him. "This is a deserted place," they said, "and it is late. Send the crowd away so they may go to the villages and farms around us to find lodging and to buy themselves something to eat."

"They don't need to go away," Jesus answered them. "You give them something to eat."

"Should we go and buy bread for two hundred denarii," the disciples asked Him, "and give it to them to eat?"

He turned to Philip: "Where should we buy bread for these people to eat?" He asked this only to test him, since He knew what He was going to do.

"Two hundred denarii," Philip answered, "wouldn't buy enough bread for each one to get just a little."

"How many loaves do you have?" He asked them. "Go and see."

After they had found out, one of His disciples, Andrew, Simon Peter's brother, told Him: "There's a boy here who has five barley loaves and two fish. But what is that among so many? We have no more than five loaves and two fish unless we go ourselves and buy food for all these people."

"Bring them here to Me," Jesus said.

Then He told His disciples, "Have them all sit down on the green grass in groups of about fifty." (There was much grass at the place.) They did this and had them all sit down in groups of hundreds and fifties.

Then Jesus took the five loaves and the two fish, looked up to heaven, gave thanks, broke the bread, and gave it to the disciples to set before the people. The disciples gave it to the crowds. In the same way He also gave pieces of the two fish to everybody, as much as they wanted.

All ate and had a hearty meal. When they had enough, He told His disciples: "Gather up the pieces that are left, so that nothing will be wasted." They gathered them up and filled twelve baskets with leftovers of the five barley loaves and of the fish.

There were about five thousand men who had eaten — not counting women and children. When the people saw the miracle He had done, they said, "This certainly is the Prophet who is coming into the world."

Jesus Walks on Water

When Jesus learned that the people meant to come and take Him by force and make Him king, He quickly made His disciples get into the boat and cross over to Bethsaida ahead of Him while He dismissed the people. After He had dismissed them, He went up the hill to be alone and pray. When evening came, He was there alone.

His disciples had gone down to the lake, stepped into a boat, and were on their way across the lake to Capernaum. It was already dark now, and Jesus had not yet come to them. A strong wind began to blow and stir up the lake. The boat was in the middle of the lake, many hundred yards from the shore. Jesus saw the waves troubling them as they rowed, because the wind was against them.

Toward morning, after they had rowed three or four

miles, Jesus came to them, walking on the lake. He wanted to pass by them. When the disciples saw Jesus walking on the lake and coming near the boat, they were terrified. "It's a ghost," they said, and they cried out because they had all seen Him and were upset.

Immediately He spoke to them. "Have courage," He said. "It is I. Don't be afraid."

They wanted to take Him into the boat. But Peter answered Him: "Lord, if it is You, order me to come to You on the water."

"Come," He said. So Peter got out of the boat, walked on the water, and went toward Jesus. But when he saw the wind, he was frightened, and he began to sink. "Lord, save me!" he cried.

Jesus quickly stretched out His hand and caught him. "How little you trust Me!" He said to him. "Why did you doubt?"

When they stepped into the boat, the wind stopped blowing. "You certainly are the Son of God," said the men in the boat as they bowed down before Him. The disciples were very much astonished. They had not understood about the loaves. Their minds were dull.

In a moment the boat came to the shore at Gennesaret, where they were going, and they anchored there.

Healings

As soon as they stepped out of the boat, the men of that place recognized Jesus, and they sent messengers who ran around all over that part of the country, and people started to carry all the sick on their beds to any place where they heard He was. And wherever He came — into villages, towns, or farms — they laid the sick in the public places and begged Him just to let them touch the tassel of His garment. And all who touched it were made completely well.

Bread from Heaven

The next day the people were still lingering on the other side of the lake. They had noticed that only one boat had been there and that Jesus had not stepped into that boat with His disciples but that they had gone away without Him. So when the people saw that neither Jesus nor His disciples were there, they stepped into other boats that had come from Tiberias to the place where they had eaten the bread after the Lord had given thanks. And so they came to Capernaum, looking for Jesus. When they found Him on the other side of the lake, they asked Him, "Master, when did You get here?"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered them, "you are looking for Me, not because you have seen miracles but because you have eaten some of the bread and have been well fed. Don't work for the food that perishes but for the food that lasts to everlasting life. The Son of Man will give it to you because the Father has sealed in Him the power to do so."

"What are the works that God wants us to do?" they asked Him.

"What God wants you to do," Jesus answered them, "is to believe in Him whom He has sent."

"What miracle can you do?" they asked Him. "Let us see it, and we'll believe You. What can You do? Our fathers ate the manna in the desert, as it is written, *He gave them bread from heaven to eat.*"⁹¹

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to them, "Moses didn't give you the bread from heaven, but My Father gives you the real bread from heaven. God's bread is that which comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

"Lord," they said to Him, "always give us this bread."

"I am the Bread of Life," Jesus told them. "Come to Me, and you will never be hungry. Believe in Me, and you

will never be thirsty. But I have told you, You have seen Me, and yet you don't believe! Everything the Father gives Me will come to Me, and when anyone comes to Me, I will never turn him away. I came down from heaven not to do what I want but what He wants who sent Me. He who sent Me doesn't want Me to lose any of those He gave Me but to raise them on the Last Day. Yes, My Father wants everyone who sees the Son and believes in Him to have everlasting life, and He wants Me to raise him on the Last Day."

Then the Jews grumbled because He said, "I am the Bread that came down from heaven." "Isn't this Jesus, Joseph's son," they asked, "whose father and mother we know? How then can He say, 'I came down from heaven'?"

"Don't grumble among yourselves," Jesus answered them. "A person can come to Me only if the Father who sent Me draws him. Then I will raise him on the Last Day. The prophets wrote, *God will teach everyone*.⁸² Everyone who hears the Father and learns from Him comes to Me. Not that anyone has seen the Father; only He who comes from God has seen the Father. I tell you the truth, anyone who believes already has everlasting life.

"I am the Bread of Life. Your fathers ate the manna in the desert, and they died. But this Bread came down from heaven in order that anyone may eat of it and keep from dying. I am the living Bread that came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this Bread, he will live forever. The bread that I will give is My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world."

Then the Jews argued with one another, saying, "How can He give us His flesh to eat?"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered them. "Unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you don't have any life in you. Anyone who eats My flesh and

drinks My blood has everlasting life, and I will raise him on the Last Day. My flesh is a real food, and My blood is a real drink. Anyone who eats My flesh and drinks My blood stays in Me and I in him. As the living Father sent Me and I live because of the Father, so anyone who eats Me will live because of Me. This is the Bread that came down from heaven. It isn't like that which the fathers ate. They died. Eat this Bread, and you will live forever."

He said this while He was teaching in a synagog at Capernaum. Hearing this, many of His disciples declared: "It's hard to believe what He says. Who can listen to Him?"

Inwardly aware that His disciples were complaining about this, Jesus asked them: "Does this upset you? What would you think if you were to see the Son of Man go up where He was before? The Spirit makes alive; the flesh doesn't help. The words I have spoken to you are Spirit, and they are life. Yet some of you will not believe." Jesus knew from the beginning who they were that wouldn't believe and who would betray Him. So He added, "That is why I told you that a person can come to Me only if the Father gives him the power."

As a result many of His disciples went back to their old life and wouldn't follow Him any more. Then Jesus asked the Twelve, "Do you want to go away too?"

"Lord, to whom else should we go?" Simon Peter answered Him. "You have words of everlasting life. And we have come to believe and we know that You are the Holy One of God."

"Didn't I choose the twelve of you?" Jesus asked, "and yet one of you is a devil?" He meant Judas, the son of Simon, the man from Kerioth. He was going to betray Him — one of the Twelve.

After this, Jesus went around in Galilee. He didn't want to travel in Judea, because the Jews were trying to kill Him.

Unclean Hands

Then the Pharisees and some experts in the Law who had come from Jerusalem gathered around Jesus. They had seen some of His disciples eat with unclean, that is, unwashed, hands. (Now the Pharisees, like all other Jews, don't eat without washing their hands up to the wrist – to keep the rules they have received from the men of old. Coming from the market place, they don't eat without washing, and there are many other rules which they have learned to keep, the washing of cups, pitchers, copper pans, and couches.)

"Why do Your disciples sin against the rules which the men of old gave us?" the Pharisees and the men of the Law asked Him. "They don't wash their hands before they eat."

"Isaiah prophesied about you hypocrites," He answered them, "and what he said is true, as it is written: *'These people honor Me with their lips, but their hearts are far away from Me. They worship Me in vain because they teach what men command.'*"⁹³

"Why do you sin against God's commandment for the sake of your rules? You give up God's commandment and keep the rules of men." He added: "You have a fine way of setting aside God's commandment in order to keep your rules! God has said, *'Honor your father and your mother,'*⁹⁴ and *'Anyone who curses father or mother must die.'*"⁹⁵ But you say, 'If anyone says to his father or mother, "I am giving to God anything by which I might help you," he doesn't have to honor his father or his mother.' No longer do you let him do anything for his father or mother. In this way you set aside the Word of God by your rules. And you are doing many things like that."

Then He called the people again and said to them: "Listen to Me, all of you, and understand. Nothing that comes from the outside into the mouth can make a person

unclean, but what comes out of his mouth makes him unclean."

When He had left the people and had gone home, His disciples came to Him. "Do you know that the Pharisees were shocked to hear You say that?" they asked Him.

"Every plant which My Father in heaven didn't plant," He answered, "will be torn out by the roots. Let them go; they are blind leaders. When one blind man leads another, both will fall into a ditch."

His disciples asked Him about the illustration. "Explain the illustration to us," Peter said to Him.

"Don't even you understand yet?" He asked. "Don't you know that nothing coming from the outside into a person can make him unclean, because it doesn't go into his heart but into his stomach, and so it passes out?" (Here Jesus made all foods clean.) "But what goes out of the mouth comes from the heart, and that makes a person unclean. Yes, from within, out of men's hearts, come evil thoughts, sexual sin, stealing, murder, adultery, greed, wickedness, cheating, lust, a jealous eye, lies, slander, pride, foolishness. All these evils come from within and make a person unclean. But eating with unwashed hands doesn't make anyone unclean."

The Syrophoenician Woman

Leaving that place, Jesus went to the country of Tyre and Sidon. He went into a house and didn't want anyone to know about it, but He couldn't keep it a secret.

There was a Canaanite woman of that territory, a Greek of the Syrophoenician people, in whose little daughter there was an unclean spirit. As soon as she heard about Him, she came out and asked Him to drive the devil out of her daughter. "Have pity on me, Lord, Son of David!" she cried. "A devil is making my daughter miserable."

But He didn't answer her a word. Then His disciples

came to Him and pleaded with Him, "Send her away. She is yelling after us."

"I was sent only to the lost sheep of Israel," He answered.

She came and bowed down at His feet. "Lord, help me!" she said.

"First let the children eat all they want," He answered her. "It isn't good to take the children's bread and throw it to the little dogs."

"You're right, Lord," she answered Him, "but even the little dogs under the table eat some of the children's crumbs that drop from their masters' table."

Then Jesus answered her: "O woman, your faith is great! Because you said that, go, and let it be done for you as you wish. The devil has gone out of your daughter."

From that hour her daughter was healed. The woman went home and found the little child lying on the bed and the devil gone.

A Deaf and Dumb Man

Again Jesus left the country of Tyre and went through Sidon and through the country of the Ten Towns to the Lake of Galilee. Then He went up a hill and sat there.

Many people came to Him, bringing those who were lame, crippled, blind, deaf, and many others, and they laid them at His feet. He healed them, so that the people were surprised to find that the dumb spoke, the cripples had sound limbs, the lame walked around, and the blind could see. And they praised the God of Israel.

Some people brought to Him a man who was deaf and tongue-tied, and they urged Jesus to lay His hand on him. Taking him away from the crowd to be alone with him, He put his fingers into the man's ears. Then He spit and touched

his tongue, and He looked up to heaven and sighed. Then He said to him, "Ephphatha!" This means, "Open!" And his ears were opened, he was made able to talk, and he spoke clearly.

Jesus ordered the people not to tell anyone. But the more He forbade them, the more widely they spread the news. They were very much astonished. "He has done everything well," they said. "He even makes the deaf hear and the dumb speak."

Jesus Feeds Four Thousand

At that time there were again many people who had nothing to eat. So Jesus called His disciples. "I feel sorry for the people," He said, "because this is already the third day that they are with Me and they have nothing to eat. I don't want to let them go home without eating; they may become exhausted on the road. Some of them have come a long way."

His disciples asked Him, "Where could we get enough bread here in the wilderness to feed such a crowd?"

"How many loaves do you have?" Jesus asked them.

"Seven," they said, "and a few small fish."

He ordered the people to sit down on the ground. Then He took the seven loaves, gave thanks, broke them, and gave them to His disciples to hand out, and they handed them to the people. He also blessed the small fish and asked that these, too, be handed out.

All ate and had enough. They also picked up seven baskets full of pieces that were left. Four thousand men had eaten, not counting women and children.

Then He dismissed the people.

A Proof from Heaven

Then Jesus and His disciples got into the boat and came to the country of Dalmanutha (or Magadan).

The Pharisees and Sadducees came to test Him. They began to argue with Him, and they asked Him to show them some sign from heaven.

He answered them: "In the evening you say, 'The weather will be fine, because the sky is red.' And in the morning: 'There will be a storm today, because the sky is red and dark.' You can judge correctly the appearance of the sky, but you cannot judge correctly the signs of the times."

With a deep and troubled sigh He asked, "Why do the wicked and unfaithful people of today demand a sign? I tell you, they will certainly get no sign but that of Jonah."

Then He left them and went away.

The Yeast of the Pharisees

He got into the boat again and started to cross to the other side.

When the disciples started out, they forgot to take bread; one loaf was all they had with them in the boat.

Jesus definitely warned them: "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees and the yeast of Herod!" Discussing this with one another, they mentioned, "We didn't bring any bread."

Since Jesus knew what they were saying, He asked: "Why are you discussing that you don't have any bread? You have so little faith! Don't you know or understand yet? Are your minds closed? *You have eyes — don't you see? You have ears — don't you hear?*"⁹⁶ And don't you remember? When I broke the five loaves for the five thousand, how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?"

"Twelve," they told Him.

"And the seven loaves for the four thousand — how many baskets full of pieces did you pick up?"

"Seven," they answered Him.

"Don't you understand yet?" He asked them. "Why don't you see that I wasn't talking to you about bread? But beware of the yeast of the Pharisees and Sadducees!"

Then they understood that He had warned them not against the yeast in bread but against the teaching of the Pharisees and Sadducees.

A Blind Man

So they came to Bethsaida. There people brought a blind man to Him and begged Jesus to touch him. Jesus took the blind man's hand and led him out of the village. Then He spit on his eyes and laid His hands on him. "Do you see anything?" He asked him.

He looked up. "I see the people," he said. "They look to me like trees walking around."

When Jesus again laid His hands on his eyes, he saw distinctly. His sight came back, and he saw everything clearly. Jesus sent him home, saying, "But don't go into the village."

"You Are the Son of God"

Then Jesus and His disciples went to the villages around the Caesarea of Philip. On the way He was praying alone, and only His disciples were with Him. Then He asked them, "Who do people say that I, the Son of Man, am?"

"Some say You are John the Baptizer," they answered Him; "others say You are Elijah; and others, Jeremiah; still others, that one of the old prophets has come back to life."

"Who do you say I am?" He asked them.

"You are the Savior whom God has promised," Simon Peter answered Him, "the Son of the living God."

"Blessed are you, Simon, son of John," Jesus answered him, "because no flesh and blood but My Father in heaven

has revealed this to you. I tell you, you are Peter, and on this rock I will build My church, and the forces of hell will not overpower it. I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Anything you bind on earth will be bound in heaven, and anything you free on earth will be freed in heaven."

Then He sternly ordered the disciples not to tell anyone that He was the promised Savior.

"I Will Die and Rise Again"

After this, Jesus Christ began to teach His disciples that the Son of Man had to go to Jerusalem and suffer much, be rejected by the elders, the ruling priests, and the men of the Law, that He had to be killed and then had to rise on the third day. He was speaking quite frankly.

But Peter took Him aside and started to correct Him, "God have mercy on You, Lord! This must never happen to You!"

But He turned, looked at His disciples, and corrected Peter. "Get behind Me, Satan!" He said. "You are a temptation to Me, because you think what men think and not what God thinks."

Take the Cross

Then Jesus called the people, including His disciples, and said to them: "If you want to follow Me, deny yourself, daily take up your cross, and follow Me. If you want to save your life, you will lose it. But if you will lose your life for Me and for the good news, you will save it. What good does it do you to gain the whole world and lose your life? Or what would you give to buy back your life? If you are ashamed of Me and of My words among the unfaithful and sinful people of today, then the Son of Man will also be

ashamed of you when He comes with His angels, in the glory that belongs to Him, to His Father, and to the holy angels. Then *He will give each one according to what he has done.*" ⁹⁷

"Let Me assure you," He told them, "there are some standing here who will not taste death until they see the Son of Man coming to rule as King, when God has come to rule with power."

Jesus Shows His Glory

About a week after He had said this, Jesus took Peter, James, and John, the brother of James, and led them up a high mountain to be alone with them and to pray. While He was praying, He was changed before them. His face shone like the sun, and His clothes became dazzling white. Nobody on earth could bleach them so white; they flashed like lightning. And there were two men talking with Him. They were Moses and Elijah. They appeared in glory and were talking about His leaving this world, which was to happen at Jerusalem.

But Peter and the men with him had been overcome by sleep. Waking up, they saw His glory and the two men standing with Him. When these were leaving Him, Peter said to Jesus: "Master, it is good for us to be here. If You wish, let us put up three tents: one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." He didn't know what he was saying, because they were terrified.

He was still speaking when suddenly a bright cloud came and overshadowed the disciples. They were frightened as they went into the cloud. Then a voice came out of the cloud: "This is My Son whom I love, whom I have chosen, and in whom I delight. Listen to Him."

When the disciples heard this, they fell down on the ground. They were terrified. But Jesus came and touched

them. "Get up," He said, "and don't be afraid." Suddenly, as they looked around, they no longer saw anyone with them but Jesus.

On their way down the mountain, Jesus ordered them: "Don't tell anyone what you have seen, until the Son of Man has risen from the dead."

They kept silent and in those days told nobody anything about what they had seen. But they kept in mind what He said and argued with one another, asking, "What is this rising from the dead?"

So the disciples asked Him, "Why, then, do the experts in the Law say that first Elijah has to come?"

"First *Elijah* does come," He answered, "and *must restore*⁹⁸ everything. But I tell you, Elijah has already come, and people didn't know he was Elijah. They treated him as they pleased, just as it is written about him. And what is written about the Son of Man? That they will make the Son of Man suffer much and will treat Him shamefully."

Then the disciples understood that He had been talking about John the Baptizer.

The Epileptic Boy

The next day, when they had come down from the mountain to join the other disciples, they saw a large crowd around them and some men of the Law arguing with them. Then the whole crowd was amazed to see Jesus, and they ran and greeted Him.

"What are you discussing with them?" He asked them.

Then a man in the crowd came to Jesus and knelt before Him. "Teacher," he called out, "I brought You my son. I beg You, look at my son and have pity on him, because he is my only child. He is epileptic and very sick. There is a speechless spirit in him. Whenever the spirit takes hold

of him, he suddenly cries out. The spirit convulses him and throws him down; he foams and grinds his teeth and becomes rigid. It will hardly stop mistreating him. I brought him to Your disciples and asked them to drive the spirit out, but they couldn't heal him."

"O you unbelieving and perverted people!" Jesus answered. "How long must I be with you! How long must I put up with you! Bring him here to Me."

They brought the boy to Him. As soon as the spirit saw Jesus, it threw the boy down and wrenched him. He fell on the ground and rolled and foamed.

"How long has he been like this?" Jesus asked his father.

"Since he was a little child," he said. "It often threw him into a fire or into water to destroy him. But if You can do anything, have pity on us and help us."

"You say, 'If You can!'" Jesus answered him. "Anything can be done if you believe."

Immediately the child's father cried out: "I do believe; help my unbelief."

When Jesus saw that a crowd was running together, He reproved the unclean spirit: "You deaf and dumb spirit, I order you, come out of him, and never go into him again."

The devil screamed and wrenched him violently and came out of him. The boy became like a dead person, so that everybody said, "He's dead."

Jesus took his hand, helped him get up, and he stood up. After that, the boy was healed, and Jesus gave him back to his father. All were astonished at God's wonderful power.

When Jesus had gone into a house and they were alone, His disciples came to Him. "Why couldn't we drive the spirit out?" they asked Him.

"Because you have so little faith," He told them. "This kind can be driven out only by prayer. I tell you a truth: If your faith is only like a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Then you can do anything."

"I Will Die and Rise Again"

Leaving that place, they started to go on byways through Galilee. Jesus didn't want anybody to know about it, because He was teaching His disciples.

While everybody felt surprised about everything that Jesus was doing and His disciples were getting together as a group, He told them: "Listen carefully to what I say. The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into the hands of men, and they will kill Him, but on the third day after He is killed He will rise."

They got very sad. But they didn't know what He meant. It was hidden from them so that they didn't understand it. And they were afraid to ask Him about it.

A Coin in a Fish's Mouth

When they came to Capernaum, the collectors of the temple tax came to Peter. "Doesn't your Teacher pay the temple tax?" they asked.

"Certainly," he answered.

Peter went into the house, but before he could speak, Jesus asked him: "What do you think, Simon? From whom do the kings of the world collect toll or tax, from their children or from strangers?"

"From strangers," he answered.

"Then the children are free," Jesus told him. "But just so we may not give them a reason to think wrong of us, go to the lake, and throw in a hook. Take the first fish that comes up, open its mouth, and you will find a coin. Take that, and give it to them for Me and you."

Who Is the Greatest?

When He came home, He asked the disciples, "What were you discussing on the way?"

They were silent, since they had on the way discussed

the question which of them might be the greatest. But Jesus knew what they were thinking. He sat down and called the Twelve. And they came and asked Him, "Who, really, is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven?"

"If anyone wants to be first," He told them, "he will have to be last of all and serve everybody."

Then He called a little child, had him stand before them, and He put His arms around him. "I tell you," He said to them, "if you don't change and become like little children, you certainly will not get into the kingdom of heaven. If you will become humble like this little child, you are the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. And if you receive a child like this in My name, you receive Me. And if you receive Me, you receive not only Me but Him who sent Me. You see, he is great who is the lowliest of all of you."

"He Is for Us"

"Teacher," John said to Jesus, "we saw a man drive out devils in Your name, and we tried to stop him, because he doesn't follow us."

"Don't stop him," Jesus said. "Anyone who does a mighty work in My name cannot turn right around and speak evil of Me. Anyone who isn't against us is for us. I tell you, anyone who will give you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ will certainly not lose his reward."

Do I Lead Others to Sin?

Jesus said to His disciples:

"If anyone leads one of these little ones who believe in Me into sin, it would be better for him to have a large millstone hung around his neck and to be drowned in the lake where it is deep. Woe to the world because it tempts people

to sin! Temptations must come, but woe to that man who tempts others to sin! Watch yourselves.

"If your hand makes you sin, cut it off, and throw it away. It is better for you to go into life crippled than to have two hands and go to hell, where the fire cannot be put out. If your foot makes you sin, cut it off, and throw it away. It is better for you to go into life with only one foot than to have two feet and be thrown into the everlasting fire. If your eye makes you sin, tear it out, and throw it away. It is better for you to go into the kingdom of God with one eye and live than to have two eyes and be thrown into hellfire, where *the worm that consumes them doesn't die and the fire isn't put out.*⁹⁹

"Everyone must be salted with fire. Salt is good. But if salt loses its taste, how will you make it taste salty again? Keep salt within you, and so live in peace with one another.

"Be careful not to despise one of these little ones. I tell you their angels in heaven always see the face of My Father in heaven.

"What do you think? If a man has a hundred sheep and one of them gets lost, will he not leave the ninety-nine in the hills and go and look for the sheep that is wandering away? I tell you, if he happens to find it, he is certainly more delighted with it than with the ninety-nine that have never wandered away. So your Father in heaven also doesn't want any one of these little ones to be lost."

Tell Him His Fault

"If your brother sins against you, go and tell him his fault when you are alone with him. If he listens to you, you have won your brother. But if he will not listen, take one or two with you so that *for everything you will have the word of two or three witnesses.*¹⁰⁰ If he will not listen to them, tell

it to the church. But if he will not even listen to the church, treat him like a heathen and a tax collector.

"I tell you the truth: Whatever you don't forgive on earth will not be forgiven in heaven, and whatever you forgive on earth will be forgiven in heaven.

"Again I tell you: If two of you here on earth agree to ask for anything, My Father in heaven will certainly do it for you. Where two or three have come together in My name, there I am among them."

Forgive

Then Peter came to Jesus and asked Him, "Lord, how often must I forgive my brother who sins against me? Seven times?"

Jesus answered him: "I tell you, not seven times, but seventy times seven times. If your brother sins, correct him; and if he is sorry, forgive him. Even if he sins against you seven times in one day and seven times he comes back to you and says, 'I'm sorry,' forgive him.

"That is why the kingdom of heaven is like a king who wanted to settle accounts with his slaves. When he began to do so, one man who owed him ten thousand talents^{*} was brought to him. But he couldn't pay it, and so the master ordered that he, his wife, his children, and all he had, be sold to pay the debts. Then the slave got down on his knees and begged: 'Be patient with me, and I'll pay you everything.'

"The master felt sorry for his slave, freed him, and canceled his debt. But when that slave went away, he found one of his fellow slaves who owed him a hundred denarii.[†] He took him and began to choke him. 'Pay me what you owe me,' he said.

^{*} One talent may have weighed as much as 1,500 silver dollars.

[†] One denarius was a day's pay.

“Then his fellow slave got down on his knees and begged him, ‘Be patient with me, and I’ll pay you.’ But he refused and went and put him in prison until he would pay what he owed.

“When his fellow slaves saw what he had done, they were very sad, and they went and reported to their master all that had happened.

“Then his master called him. ‘You wicked slave,’ he said to him. ‘I canceled all you owed me, because you begged me. Shouldn’t you also have treated your fellow slave as kindly as I treated you?’ His master was angry and handed him over to the torturers until he would pay all he owed him.

“That is what My Father in heaven will do to you if each of you will not heartily forgive his brother.”

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In Judea

To Jerusalem!

The Jewish Festival of Booths was near. So His brothers told Jesus: "Leave this place, go to Judea, and let Your disciples there also see the works You are doing. Nobody works without being seen if he wants to be known publicly. If You do such things, let the world see You." Not even His brothers believed in Him.

"It isn't the right time for Me yet," Jesus told them, "but for you any time is the right time. The world can't hate you, but it hates Me, because I tell the truth about it, that it is doing wrong. You go up to the festival. I'm not going up to this festival now, because My time hasn't come yet."

This was what He told them, and He stayed in Galilee. But since the time was coming nearer for Him to be taken up to heaven, He was determined to go to Jerusalem. His brothers had already gone up to the festival when He left Galilee and also went up, not publicly but without being seen.

He sent messengers ahead of Him. On the way they stopped at a village of the Samaritans to prepare for Him. But the people didn't welcome Him, because He was determined to go to Jerusalem. When His disciples James and John saw this, they asked, "Lord, do You want us to order *fire to come down from heaven and consume them?*" ¹⁰¹

But He turned and sternly corrected them. So they went on to another village.

"I Will Follow, but" —

As they were walking along the road, a man of the Law came to Him. "Teacher," he said to Him, "I will follow You anywhere You go."

"The foxes have holes," Jesus told him, "and the birds in the air have nests, but the Son of Man doesn't have a place to lay His head."

He told another disciple, "Follow Me."

"Lord," that one asked Him, "first let me go and bury my father."

But Jesus told him: "Follow Me. Let the dead bury their dead, but you go and tell about the kingdom of God."

"I will follow You, Lord," said still another, "but first let me say good-by to my people at home."

"Anyone who lays his hand on a plow," Jesus answered him, "and then looks back isn't fit for the kingdom of God."

At the Festival of Booths

Then they came to the country of Judea and to the other side of the Jordan.

Now the Jews were looking for Jesus in the crowd at the festival. "Where is He?" they kept asking. And there was much murmuring in the crowds about Him. "He's a good man," some said; but others, "No, He deceives the people."

Yet nobody would speak of Him in public, because they were afraid of the Jews.

But when the festival was already half over, Jesus went up to the temple and began to teach. The Jews were surprised. "How can He know so much," they asked, "when He hasn't been in the schools?"

"What I teach doesn't come from Me," Jesus answered them, "but from Him who sent Me. Anyone who wants to do His will will know whether My teaching is from God or whether I speak My own thoughts. Anyone who speaks his own thoughts tries to glorify himself. But He who tries to glorify the One who sent Him speaks the truth, and there is no wrong in Him. Didn't Moses give you the Law? Yet none of you does what the Law tells you. Why are you trying to kill Me?"

"There's a devil in You," the crowd answered. "Who is trying to kill You?"

"I did one thing," Jesus answered them, "and you are all surprised about it. Moses gave you circumcision (not that it came from Moses, but from our ancestors), and you circumcise a man on a Sabbath. If a child is circumcised on a day of rest to keep the Law of Moses, do you feel bitter toward Me because I made all of a man well on a Sabbath? Don't judge by what you see, but be fair when you judge."

Then some of the men from Jerusalem said: "Isn't He the man they are trying to kill? Yet here He speaks in public, and they say nothing to Him! Surely the rulers haven't discovered that He is the promised Savior, have they? Now we know where This One comes from. But when the promised Savior comes, nobody knows where He is from."

"You know Me," Jesus called aloud as He was teaching in the temple, "and you know where I come from. I didn't send Myself, but there is One who sent Me. He is very

real. You don't know Him, but I know Him because I come from Him and He sent Me."

Then they tried to arrest Him, but nobody laid a hand on Him, because the right time had not yet come for Jesus.

But many in the crowd believed in Him. "When the promised Savior comes," they asked, "will He do more miracles than This One has done?"

The Pharisees heard the people muttering such things about Him. So the ruling priests as well as the Pharisees sent their men to arrest Him.

"I will be with you just a little longer," said Jesus; "then I go to Him who sent Me. You will look for Me and not find Me; and where I am, you cannot come."

"Where does He intend to go," the Jews asked one another, "since He says we're not going to find Him? He doesn't intend to go to our people scattered among the Greeks and teach the Greeks, does He? What does He mean by saying, 'You will look for Me and not find Me' and 'Where I am, you cannot come'?"

On the last day, the great day of the festival, as Jesus was standing there, He called aloud: "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. If anyone believes in Me, streams of living water will flow from him, as the Bible has said." By this He meant the Spirit, whom those who believed in Him were to receive. The Spirit had not yet come, because Jesus had not yet been glorified.

After they heard Him say this, some of the people said, "This certainly is the Prophet." Others said, "This is the promised Savior." Still others asked: "What! Does the promised Savior come from Galilee? Doesn't the Bible say, 'The promised Savior *will come from the descendants of David and from the village of Bethlehem,*¹⁰² where David lived'?" So the people were divided over Him. Some of them wanted to arrest Him, but nobody laid hands on Him.

When the men who had been sent went back to the

ruling priests and Pharisees, these asked them, "Why didn't you bring Him?"

"Nobody ever spoke like this Man," the men answered.

"Were you also deceived?" the Pharisees asked them. "None of the rulers or of the Pharisees have believed in Him, have they? But this crowd, which doesn't know the Law, is cursed."

One of them, Nicodemus, who had come to Jesus before this, asked them, "Surely our Law doesn't condemn a man without first hearing what he has to say and finding out what he is doing?"

"Are you, too, from Galilee?" they asked him. "Search and see; the prophet doesn't come from Galilee."

Jesus Argues with the Jews

Jesus spoke to them again: "I am the Light of the world. Follow Me, and you will never walk in the dark but will have the Light of life."

"You testify about Yourself," the Pharisees said to Him. "We can't depend on Your testimony."

"You can depend on My testimony," Jesus answered them, "even if I testify about Myself, because I know where I came from and where I am going; but you don't know where I came from or where I am going. You judge in a human way, a way in which I don't judge anybody. But whenever I judge, you can depend on My judgment because I am not alone, but the Father who sent Me is with Me. In your own Law it is written that the testimony of two men is valid. I testify about Myself, and the Father who sent Me testifies about Me."

"Where is Your Father?" they asked Him.

"You don't know Me or My Father," Jesus answered. "If you knew Me, you would also know My Father."

He said this in the room of the treasury while He was

teaching in the temple, and yet nobody arrested Him, because the right time had not yet come for Him.

"I'm going away," He said to them again, "and you will look for me, but you will die in your sin. Where I'm going, you cannot come."

"Is He going to kill Himself," the Jews asked, "and is that why He says, 'Where I'm going, you cannot come'?"

"You are from below," He told them. "I am from above. You belong to this world. I don't belong to this world. That is why I told you, 'You will die in your sins.' If you don't believe that I am He, you will die in your sins."

"Who are You?" they asked Him.

"I am what I told you from the beginning," Jesus answered them. "There is much about you that I should speak about and condemn. And yet I say to the world only what I heard from Him who sent Me, and He tells the truth." They didn't understand that He was speaking to them about the Father.

So Jesus told them: "When you have lifted up the Son of Man, you will know that I am He and that I do nothing by Myself, but I speak as My Father has taught Me. And He who sent Me is with Me. He has not left Me alone, because I always do what pleases Him."

As He was saying this, many believed in Him. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed in Him: "If you continue in My Word, you are really My disciples, and you will know the truth, and the truth will free you."

"We are the descendants of Abraham," they answered Him, "and have never been anybody's slaves. How can You say, 'You will be freed'?"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus answered them. "Everyone who keeps on sinning is a slave to sin. A slave doesn't stay in the home forever. The son stays forever. If, then, the Son frees you, you will be really free. I know you are the descendants of Abraham. But you are trying to kill Me be-

cause My Word is not working in you. I am telling what I have seen, being with My Father, and you do what you have heard from your father."

"Abraham is our father," they answered Him.

"If you are Abraham's children," Jesus told them, "do what Abraham did. But now you are trying to kill Me, a man who has told you the truth, which I have heard from God. Abraham didn't do that. You are doing what your father does."

"We were not born outside of marriage," they said. "We have one Father, and He is God."

"If God were your Father," Jesus told them, "you would love Me because I came from God and now I am here. I did not Myself decide to come, but He sent Me. Why don't you understand what I say? It is because you cannot listen to what I tell you. You come from your father, the devil, and you want to do what your father wants. From the beginning he has been murdering people and has not been in the truth, because there is no truth in him. When he tells a lie, he speaks from his heart, because he is a liar and the father of lies. Now because I tell the truth, you don't believe Me. Which of you can prove Me guilty of a sin? If I tell the truth, why don't you believe Me? A child of God listens to what God says. You don't listen to Him, because you are not God's children."

"Aren't we right," the Jews answered Him, "when we say You are a Samaritan and there's a devil in You?"

"There's no devil in Me," Jesus answered. "No, I honor My Father, but you dishonor Me. I am not striving for My own glory. There is One who strives for it, and He is the Judge. Let me assure you: If you keep My Word, you will never see death."

"Now we know there's a devil in You," the Jews told Him. "Abraham died, and so did the prophets, and yet You

say, 'If you keep My Word, you will never taste death.' Are You greater than our father Abraham? He died, and the prophets died. Who do You claim to be?"

"If I glorify Myself," Jesus said, "My glory is nothing. It is My Father who glorifies Me, He whom you call your God. You don't know Him, but I know Him. And if I would say I don't know Him, I would be a liar like you. But I do know Him, and I keep His Word. Your father Abraham was delighted to know of My day; he saw it and was glad."

"You're not yet fifty years old," the Jews said to Him, "and You have seen Abraham?"

"I tell you the truth," Jesus told them: "I was before Abraham."

Then they picked up stones to throw at Him. But Jesus hid Himself and left the temple.

A Blind Man Sees

As Jesus passed by, He saw a man who had been blind from his birth. "Master," His disciples asked Him, "why was he born blind? Did he sin or his parents?"

"Neither he nor his parents," Jesus answered. "He is blind in order to show what God can do with him. We must do the works of Him who sent Me while it is day. The night is coming when nobody can work. As long as I am in the world, I am the Light of the world."

After He had said this, He spit on the ground and with the spit made some mud, and He put the mud on the man's eyes. "Go," He told him, "wash in the pool of Siloam" (the name means "sent"). He went and washed. And as he walked away, he could see.

Now his neighbors and others, who used to see him begging, asked, "Isn't this the man who used to sit and beg?"

"It is he," some said. Others said, "No, but he looks like him." But he himself said, "I'm the one."

Then they asked him, "How did you get your sight?"

"The man they call Jesus made some mud," he answered, "and He put it on my eyes and told me, 'Go to Siloam and wash.' So I went and washed, and then I could see."

"Where is He?" they asked him.

"I don't know," he answered.

They brought him who had been blind to the Pharisees. Now it was a Sabbath when Jesus made the mud and gave him his sight. So the Pharisees also asked him how he got his sight.

"He put mud on my eyes," the man told them, "and I washed them, and now I can see."

"This man is not from God," said some of the Pharisees, "because he doesn't rest on a Sabbath." Others asked, "How can a sinful man do such miracles?" So they were divided.

Then they asked the blind man again, "What do you say about Him, since He gave you your sight?"

"He is a prophet," he answered.

The Jews, however, didn't believe that the man had been blind and got his sight until they called the parents of the man who could see now. "Is this your son who, you say, was born blind?" they asked them. "How does it happen that he can see now?"

"We know he is our son," his parents answered, "and that he was born blind. But we don't know how it is that he can see now, nor do we know who gave him his sight. Ask him; he's of age. He'll tell you about himself." His parents said this because they were afraid of the Jews. The Jews had already agreed to put out of the synagog anyone who confessed that Jesus was the promised Savior. That is why his parents said, "He's of age, ask him."

So once again they called the man who had been blind. "Give glory to God," they told him. "We know this man is a sinner."

"I don't know if He's a sinner," he answered. "I know only one thing — I used to be blind, and now I can see."

"What did He do to you?" they asked him. "How did He give you your sight?"

"I've already told you," he answered them, "and you heard it. Why do you want to hear it again? You don't want to be His disciples, too, do you?"

"You're His disciple," they answered him scornfully, "but we are disciples of Moses. We know God spoke to Moses, but as for this fellow — we don't know where He's from."

"Well, that's strange!" the man answered them. "You don't know where He's from, and yet He gave me my sight. We know that God doesn't hear sinners, but He hears anyone who worships God and does His will. Nobody has ever heard of anyone giving sight to a man who had been born blind. If This One were not from God, He couldn't do anything."

"You were altogether born in sins," they answered him, "and are you trying to teach us?" Then they put him out of the synagogue.

Jesus heard that they had put him out. Finding him, He asked him, "Do you believe in the Son of Man?"

"Who is He, sir?" he asked. "I want to believe in Him."

"You have seen Him," Jesus told him. "It is He who is now talking to you."

"I do believe, Lord," he said, and he bowed down to worship Him.

Then Jesus said, "I have come into this world to judge men, so that those who don't see may see and those who see may become blind."

The Pharisees who were near Him heard this. "We aren't blind, are we?" they asked Him.

"If you were blind," Jesus told them, "you wouldn't have any sin. But now that you say, 'We see,' your sin stays with you."

The Good Shepherd

"I tell you the truth: The man who doesn't come into the sheepfold through the door but climbs over somewhere else is a thief and a robber. But the one who comes in through the door is the shepherd of the sheep. The watchman opens the door for him, and the sheep listen to his voice. He calls his own sheep by their names and leads them out. When he has brought out all his own sheep, he goes ahead of them, and the sheep follow him because they know his voice. They will not follow a stranger, but will run away from him, because they don't know the voice of strangers."

This was the illustration that Jesus used in speaking to them, but they didn't understand what He was telling them. So Jesus said again: "I tell you the truth. I am the Door of the sheep. All who came before Me are thieves and robbers, but the sheep refused to listen to them. I am the Door. If anyone comes in through Me, he will be saved and will go in and out and find pasture. The thief comes only to steal and kill and destroy. I came that they may have life and that it may overflow in them. I am the Good Shepherd. A good shepherd gives his life for the sheep. When a hired man, who isn't a shepherd and doesn't own the sheep, sees a wolf coming, he leaves the sheep and runs away — and the wolf carries them off and scatters them — because he works for money and doesn't care about the sheep. I am the Good Shepherd, and I know My sheep, and My sheep know Me, as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I give My life for the sheep. I have other sheep, too, that are not of this fold. I must lead those, too, and they will listen to My voice, and so they will become one flock with *one Shepherd*.¹⁰⁸ The Father loves Me because I give My life in order to take it back again. Nobody takes it from Me. No, of My own free will I am giving it. I have the power to give it, and I have the power to take it back again. This is what My Father has ordered Me to do."

These words again caused division among the Jews. Many of them said: "There's a devil in Him, and He's out of His mind. Why do you listen to Him?" Others said: "These are not the words of a man in whom there is a devil. Can a devil give sight to the blind?"

Seventy Missionaries

After that, the Lord appointed seventy others and sent them out by twos to go ahead of Him to every town and place where He intended to go. He told them:

"There's a great harvest, but there are only a few workers. Pray to the Lord of the harvest to send out workers to bring in His harvest. Go! You see, I'm sending you like lambs among wolves. Don't carry a purse, a bag, or shoes, and don't stop to greet anyone on the way. When you go into a house, say first, 'May there be peace in this house.' If a man of peace lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will come back to you. Stay in that house, and eat and drink whatever the people have, since a worker deserves his pay. Don't move from one house to another. When you go into any town and the people welcome you, eat what they serve you. Heal the sick that are there, and tell the people, 'The kingdom of God has come to you.'

"But if you go into a town where they will not welcome you, go out on its streets and say, 'The dust of your town has clung to our feet — we wipe it off in protest against you. But realize this: The kingdom of God has come near you!' I tell you, on that Day it will be easier for Sodom than for that town."

Then He began to reproach the cities where He had done most of His miracles, because they had not repented: "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! If the miracles that were done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. I tell you, on the Day of Judgment it will be easier for

Tyre and Sidon than for you. And you, Capernaum, will you be *lifted up to heaven? You will go down to hell!*¹⁰⁴ If the miracles that have been done in you had been done in Sodom, it would still be there today. I tell you, on the Day of Judgment it will be easier for the country of Sodom than for you.

"Anyone who hears you hears Me, and anyone who rejects you rejects Me. But anyone who rejects Me rejects Him who sent Me."

The seventy came back delighted. "Lord," they said, "even the devils do what we tell them in Your name."

"I was watching Satan fall from heaven like lightning," He told them. "You know I have given you the power to *step on snakes*¹⁰⁵ and scorpions and to trample on all the power of the enemy, and nothing will hurt you. Only don't be delighted with this, that the spirits obey you, but that your names are written in heaven."

In that hour the Holy Spirit filled Jesus with joy. "I praise You, Father, Lord of heaven and earth," He said, "that You have hidden these things from wise and intelligent people and have revealed them to little children. Yes, Father, I praise You that You were pleased to have it so."

"My Father has put everything into My hands. Only the Father knows the Son. And only the Son — and anyone to whom the Son wishes to reveal Him — knows the Father."

Turning to His disciples, He said to them alone: "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see, because, I tell you, many prophets and kings longed to see what you see but didn't see it, and to hear what you hear but didn't hear it."

"Come to Me, all you who are laboring under a burden,
And I will give you rest."

Take My yoke upon you, and learn from Me —

I am gentle and lowly at heart —

Then *you will find your rest.*¹⁰⁶

My yoke is easy,

And My burden is light."

The Good Samaritan

Then a man of the Law stepped up to test Jesus. "Teacher," he asked, "what do I have to do to get everlasting life?"

"What is written in the Law?" Jesus asked him. "What do you read there?"

"*Love the Lord, your God, with all your heart,*" he answered, "*and with all your life and with all your strength*"¹⁰⁷ and with all your mind, and *your neighbor as yourself.*"¹⁰⁸

"You are right," Jesus told him. "*Do that, and you will live.*"¹⁰⁹

But he wanted to justify himself. So he asked Jesus, "And who is my neighbor?"

Jesus went into the matter and said:

"A man going from Jerusalem down to Jericho fell into the hands of robbers. They stripped him, struck him blow after blow, and went away, leaving him half dead.

"Just at that time a priest happened to be going along that road, but when he saw him, he passed by on the other side. So did also a Levite who came to the place. He looked at him and passed by on the other side.

"Then a Samaritan, as he was traveling, came near him, and when he saw him, he felt sorry. He went to him and bandaged his wounds, pouring on oil and wine. Then he put him on his own animal, brought him to an inn, and took care of him. The next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper. 'Take care of him,' he said, 'and anything else you spend on him I will repay you when I come back.'

"Which of those three, do you think, was a neighbor to the man who had fallen into the hands of the robbers?"

"The one who was kind enough to help him," he said.

"Go and do as he did," Jesus told him.

Mary Listens to Jesus

As they were walking along, Jesus came to a village where a woman by the name of Martha welcomed Him to her home. She had a sister by the name of Mary. She sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to what He said.

But Martha was worried about all she had to do for them. So she came and asked: "Lord, don't You care that my sister has left me and I have to do the work alone? Now tell her to help me."

"Martha, Martha," the Lord answered her, "you worry and trouble yourself about many things. But you really need only one thing. Mary has made the right choice, and it must not be taken away from her."

The Lord's Prayer

Once Jesus was praying in a certain place. When He stopped, one of His disciples asked Him, "Lord, teach us to pray as John taught his disciples."

He told them: "When you pray, say:

Father, let Your name be holy,

Your kingdom come,

Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us every day our daily bread.

Forgive us our sins, as we also forgive everyone who
sins against us.

And don't bring us into temptation."

Warnings

Jesus had been speaking when a Pharisee invited Him to eat at his home. So He went in and lay down for the meal. But the Pharisee was surprised to see that He didn't wash before the meal.

The Lord said to him: "You Pharisees keep cleaning the

outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside you are full of greed and wickedness. You fools, didn't He who made the outside make the inside too? Just make your heart a gift of mercy, and you will find everything clean.

"But woe to you Pharisees because you give a tenth of mint, rue, and every vegetable and you neglect to do right and to love God. You should have done these without neglecting the others.

"And woe to you Pharisees because you like to have the seats of honor in the synagogues and to be greeted in the markets. Woe to you because you are like the unmarked graves over which people walk without knowing what they are."

"Teacher," one of the men of the Law said to Him, "when You say that, You insult us too."

"Woe also to you experts in the Law," He said, "because you load people with burdens they can hardly carry, but you won't touch these burdens with one finger. Woe to you because you build monuments for the prophets whom your fathers murdered. So you are witnesses and you approve of what your fathers did. They murdered them, and you only build monuments for them. That is why the wisdom of God has said: I will send them prophets and apostles, and they will murder or persecute some of them, in order that the people of today may be punished for the blood of all the prophets that has been poured out since the world was made, from the blood of Abel to the blood of Zachariah, who was killed between the altar and the temple. Yes, I tell you, the people of today will be punished for it.

"Woe to you experts in the Law because you have taken away the key to knowledge. You haven't gone in yourselves, and you've kept out those who tried to get in."

When Jesus left the house, the experts in the Law and the Pharisees fiercely opposed Him and cross-examined Him about many things, watching Him closely to trap Him in something He might say.

Don't Be Afraid of Men

When countless thousands of people came together, so that they trampled on one another, Jesus began to speak first to His disciples: "Beware of the yeast of the Pharisees — I mean, their hypocrisy. Everything that is covered will be uncovered, and every secret will be known. Everything you have said in the dark will be heard in the light, and what you whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be announced from the roofs. But I tell you, My friends, don't be afraid of those who kill the body and then can't do any more. I will point out the One whom you must fear. Fear Him who after killing you has the power to hurl you into hell. Yes, I tell you, fear Him.

"Aren't five sparrows sold for two cents? And yet God doesn't forget any one of them. Why, even the hairs on your heads are all counted! Don't be afraid — you are worth more than many sparrows! I tell you, whoever will confess Me before others, him the Son of Man will confess before the angels of God. Anyone who denies Me before others will be denied before the angels of God. Anyone who will speak against the Son of Man will be forgiven. But he who speaks evil of the Holy Spirit will not be forgiven.

"When they bring you before synagogues, rulers, and authorities, don't worry how you will defend yourselves or what you will say. In that hour the Holy Spirit will teach you what to say."

Don't Be Greedy

"Teacher," someone in the crowd said to Him, "tell my brother to give me my share of the property our father left us."

"Man," He asked him, "who has appointed Me to be your judge or to divide your property?" "Be careful," He told the

people. "Guard against every kind of greed. Not by having more than enough do you live on what you have."

Then He gave them an illustration:

"A rich man had a good crop on his land. 'What am I going to do?' he said to himself. 'I have no place to store my crops.' 'This is what I'll do,' he finally said. 'I'll tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and I'll store all my grain and my goods in them. Then I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things stored up for many years. Take life easy, eat, drink, and enjoy yourself.'"

"But God said to him: 'You fool, tonight you must die. Then who will get what you have prepared?' That is what happens to a man who stores up goods for himself but isn't rich in God."

And He said to His disciples:

"That is why I tell you, Don't worry about what you will eat in order to live or what clothes you will put on your body. Life is more than food, and the body more than clothes. Look at the crows. They don't sow or harvest, they have no storeroom or barn, and yet God feeds them. You are worth much more than birds. And who among you can by worrying add anything to his life? If you, then, cannot do even the smallest thing, why do you worry about the rest? See how the flowers grow. They don't work or spin. Yet I tell you, even Solomon in all his glory didn't dress like one of them. If that is how God dresses the grass, which lives in the field today and is thrown into the stove tomorrow, how much more certainly will He dress you, who trust Him so little? So don't strive for what you will eat or drink, and don't worry. The people in the world strive for all these things, but your Father knows that you need them. Only strive for His kingdom, and these things, too, will be given to you. Don't be afraid, little flock. Your Father has decided to give you the Kingdom.

"Sell what you have, and give the money to the poor. Make yourselves purses that will not wear out, a treasure

that will never be used up — in heaven, where no thief gets near it and no moth destroys it. Where your treasure is, there your heart will be.”

Sorrow Ahead

“I have come to bring fire on earth, and how glad I would be if it were already started! I must be baptized with a baptism, and how I am troubled till it is done!

“Do you think that I came to bring peace on earth? No, I tell you, to bring division. From now on five persons in one house will be divided, three against two and two against three. A father will be against a son and *a son against a father*, a mother against a daughter and *a daughter against her mother*, a mother-in-law against her daughter-in-law and *a daughter-in-law against her mother-in-law.*”¹¹⁰

The Signs of the Times

Jesus said to the people: “When you see a cloud rising in the west, you immediately say, ‘A shower is coming,’ and so it comes. And when you see a wind blowing from the south, you say, ‘It will be hot,’ and so it is. You hypocrites! You can tell what the appearance of the earth and of the sky means. How is it that you cannot interpret this present time? Why don’t you by yourselves decide what is right?

“When you go with your opponent to be tried before a ruler, do your best to settle with him on the way, or he may drag you before the judge, and the judge will hand you over to the officer, and the officer will put you in prison. I tell you, you will never get out until you pay the last cent.”

Repent

At that time some men came to tell Him about the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mixed with their sacrifices.

Jesus asked them: "Do you think those Galileans, because they came to such an end, were worse sinners than any other Galileans? No, I tell you, if you don't repent, you will all perish as they did. Or do you think those eighteen who were killed when the tower of Siloam fell on them were worse transgressors than any other people living in Jerusalem? No, I tell you, if you don't repent, you will all perish as they did."

Another Year

He told them this parable:

"A man had a fig tree that was planted in his vineyard. He came and looked for fruit on it, but didn't find any. So he said to the man who worked the vineyard, 'It is now three years since I've been coming and looking for fruit on this fig tree, and I haven't found any. Cut it down. Why should it waste the ground?'

"'Master,' he answered him, 'let it stand one more year, and I will dig around it and fertilize it. If it bears fruit next year, it is well. But if not, then cut it down.'"

Sick for Eighteen Years

Jesus was teaching in one of the synagogues on a Sabbath, and there was a woman whom a spirit had made sick for eighteen years. She was bent over and couldn't stand up straight. When Jesus saw her, He called her and said, "Woman, you are freed from your sickness." He laid His hands on her, and immediately she stood up straight and praised God.

But the leader of the synagogue was annoyed because Jesus had healed her on a Sabbath. "There are six days on which you ought to do your work," he told the people. "Come on those days and be healed, but not on a day of rest."

"You hypocrites," the Lord answered him. "Doesn't every-

one of you on a Saturday untie his ox or donkey from the manger and lead it to water? Shouldn't this woman, a daughter of Abraham, whom Satan has bound these eighteen years, on a day of rest be freed from what bound her?"

As He said this, all His enemies felt ashamed, but all the common people were delighted with the wonderful things He was doing.

"I and the Father Are One"

Then came the Festival of Dedication in Jerusalem. It was winter, and Jesus was walking in Solomon's porch in the temple. There the Jews surrounded Him. "How long will You keep us in suspense?" they asked Him. "If You are the promised Savior, tell us frankly."

"I have told you," Jesus answered them, "but you will not believe it. The works that I do in My Father's name tell the truth about Me. But you will not believe, because you are not My sheep. My sheep listen to My voice, and I know them, and they follow Me, and I give them everlasting life. They will never be lost, and nobody will tear them out of My hand. My Father who gave them to Me is greater than all others, and nobody can tear them out of My Father's hand. I and the Father are one."

Again the Jews picked up stones to stone Him. Jesus answered them: "I have shown you many good works that come from the Father. For which of these works are you trying to stone Me?"

"We are stoning You," the Jews answered Him, "not for a good work but for blasphemy, because You, a man, make Yourself God."

Jesus said to them: "Isn't it written in your Law, *I said, 'You are gods'*?"¹¹¹ If it called them gods to whom the Word of God came — and what is written cannot be set aside — do you say to Me, whom the Father appointed for His holy

purpose and sent into the world, 'You are blaspheming,' because I said, 'I am the Son of God'? If I'm not doing My Father's works, don't trust Me. But if I do them, even if you don't trust Me, trust My works that you may learn and understand that the Father is in Me and I am in the Father."

Again they tried to arrest Him, but He escaped from their hands. He went back across the Jordan to the place where John formerly had been baptizing, and He stayed there.

Once more large crowds gathered around Him, and He healed them there and taught them again as He used to do.

"John did no miracle," many said, "but everything John said about This One is true." And many believed in Him there.

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In Perea

The Narrow Door

Then Jesus went and taught in one town and village after another on His way to Jerusalem.

Someone asked Him, "Lord, are only a few people saved?" He told them:

"Try hard to go through the narrow door, because I tell you, many will try to get in and will not succeed. After the Owner of the house gets up and closes the door, you will stand outside and knock at the door. 'Lord, open it for us!' you will say, and He will answer you, 'I don't know where you come from.' Then you will say, 'We ate and drank with You, and You taught in our streets.' But He will say: 'I tell you, I don't know where you come from. *Get away from Me, all you who do wrong.*'¹¹² Then you will wail and gnash your teeth, when you see Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, and all the prophets in the kingdom of God but yourselves thrown

out. People will come *from the east and the west*,¹¹³ from the north and the south, and will eat in the kingdom of God. You see, some who are last will be first, and some who are first will be last."

Jesus Warns Jerusalem

Just then some Pharisees came and told him, "Leave and get away from here, because Herod wants to kill You."

"Go and tell that fox," He answered them, "today and tomorrow I will drive out devils and perform healings, and on the third day I will finish. Yet I must be moving along today, tomorrow, and the following day, because a prophet just cannot be killed outside Jerusalem.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you murder the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I have wanted to gather your children around Me as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, but you refused. Now your *house is left*¹¹⁴ to you. I tell you, you will not see Me until you say, '*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*'"¹¹⁵

Dinner Is Ready!

Once Jesus went to eat at the home of a leader of the Pharisees on a Sabbath, and they were watching Him carefully.

Before Him was a man who had dropsy. Jesus asked the lawyers and Pharisees, "Is it right to heal on a day of rest or not?" But they were silent.

So Jesus took hold of the man, healed him, and sent him away. "If one of you has a son or an ox," he asked them, "and he falls into a well, will you not pull him out immediately on a Sabbath?" They couldn't answer this.

When He noticed how the guests chose the best places, He told them a parable:

"When anyone invites you to a wedding, don't take the best place. He may have invited somebody who is more important than you. Then he who invited you and him will come and tell you, 'Give your place to this man,' and then you will feel ashamed when you have to take the lowest place. No, when you are invited, go and take the lowest place, so that when your host comes, he will tell you, 'Friend, move up higher.' Then you will be honored before all your fellow guests. Everyone who honors himself will be humbled, but he who humbles himself will be honored."

"When you give a dinner or a supper," Jesus told the man who had invited Him, "don't invite your friends, your brothers, your relatives, or rich neighbors. Otherwise they will invite you too and pay you back. No, when you entertain, invite those who are poor, crippled, lame, and blind. Then, because they can't pay you back, you will be blessed. You will be rewarded when the righteous rise from the dead."

When one of the men who was eating with Him heard this, he said to Jesus, "Happy is he who will eat bread in the kingdom of God."

Jesus said to him:

"A man once gave a big dinner, and he invited many. When it was time for the dinner, he sent his slave to tell those who had been invited, 'Come, it is ready now!'

"Then all alike began to excuse themselves. 'I bought a field,' the first told him, 'and I must go out and see it. Please excuse me.' Another said, 'I bought five teams of oxen, and I'm on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.' And another said, 'I just got married, and that's why I can't come.'

"The slave went back and reported this to his master. Then the master of the house got angry. 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the city,' he told his slave, 'and bring in here those who are poor, crippled, blind, or lame.'

"And the slave said, 'Master, it is done as you ordered, and there still is room.'

"Then the master told the slave, 'Go out to the roads and hedges, and make them come in so that my house will be filled. I tell you, none of those men who were invited will taste my dinner.'"

Leave Everything

Large crowds were going with Jesus. Turning to them, He said:

"If you come to Me and don't hate your father, mother, wife, children, brothers, and sisters, and even your own life, you cannot be My disciples. Whoever doesn't carry his cross and follow Me cannot be My disciple.

"If any one of you wants to build a tower, will you not first sit down and count what it costs, to see if you have enough to finish it? Otherwise, when you have laid a foundation but cannot finish the building, all who watch you will make fun of you and say, 'This man began to build but couldn't finish it.'

"Or suppose a king is going into battle against another king. Won't he first sit down and consider whether he can with ten thousand men oppose the other who is coming against him with twenty thousand? If he cannot, then, while the other is still far away, he sends ambassadors to ask for terms of peace. Just so any one of you who doesn't say good-by to everything he has cannot be My disciple.

"Now, salt is good. But if the salt loses its taste, how will it be made salty again? It is no good for the ground or for the manure pile. People throw it away.

"If you have ears to hear, listen!"

Lost — a Sheep

All the tax collectors and sinners were coming to Jesus to hear Him. But the Pharisees and the men of the Law

complained and said, "This man welcomes sinners and eats with them."

So He told them this parable:

"If any one of you has a hundred sheep, and you lose one of them, don't you leave the ninety-nine in the wilderness and go after the lost one until you find it? When you find it, you lay it on your shoulders and are glad. You go home and call your friends and neighbors together and say to them: 'Be happy with me. I found my lost sheep!' So, I tell you, there will be more joy in heaven over one sinner who repents than over ninety-nine righteous persons who don't need to repent."

Lost — a Coin

"Or suppose a woman has ten coins, and she loses one. Will she not light a lamp and sweep the house and look for it carefully until she finds it? When she finds it, she calls her women friends and neighbors together and says: 'Be happy with me. I found the coin that I lost.' So, I tell you, the angels of God will be happy over one sinner who repents."

Lost — a Son

Then Jesus said: "A man had two sons. The younger of them said to his father, 'Father, give me my share of the property.' So he divided his property between them.

"A few days later, the younger son cashed in all he had, left home for a distant country, and there squandered his property by wild living. When he had spent everything, a severe famine came over that country, and he began to be in need. So he went and hired himself out to a citizen of that country, who sent him to his fields to feed hogs. And he longed to fill his stomach with the pods that the hogs were eating. And nobody would give him anything.

"Then he came to his senses, and he said: 'How many of my father's hired men have more food than they can eat, and here I'm dying of hunger! I will start out and go to my father and say to him: "Father, I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I don't deserve to be called your son any more. Make me one of your hired men."' "

"So he started out and went to his father. While he was still far away, his father saw him and felt sorry for him. He ran and put his arms around him and kissed him tenderly. 'Father,' the son said to him, 'I have sinned against Heaven and before you. I don't deserve to be called your son any more. Make me one of your hired men.'

"'Quick,' the father told his slaves, 'bring out the best robe and put it on him, put a ring on his finger and shoes on his feet. And bring the fattened calf, kill it, and let us eat and celebrate. This son of mine was dead and has become alive. He was lost and is found.' And they began to celebrate.

"Now his older son was in the field. As he came near the house, he heard music and dancing. Calling one of the servants, he asked, 'What does this mean?'

"'Your brother has come back,' he was told, 'and your father has killed the fattened calf because he got him back safe and sound.'

"Then he got angry and refused to go in. So his father came out and begged him. But he answered his father: 'All these years I've been working like a slave for you, and I have never disobeyed your order, and you have never given me a little goat to celebrate with my friends. But as soon as this son of yours came back, who devoured your property with prostitutes, you killed the fattened calf for him.'

"'Son,' the father said to him, 'you are always with me, and all I have is yours. But we had to celebrate and be glad, because this brother of yours was dead and is alive. He was lost and is found.' "

The Dishonest Manager

Then Jesus said to His disciples:

"There was a rich man whose manager was accused of squandering the man's property. He called the manager. 'What is this I hear about you?' he asked him. 'Give an account of your management, because you cannot manage my property any longer.'

"'What should I do?' the manager said to himself. 'My master is taking my job as manager away from me. I'm not strong enough to dig; I'm ashamed to beg. I know what I'll do so that when I lose my job, people will welcome me into their homes.'

"So he called everyone who owed his master anything. 'How much do you owe my master?' he asked the first.

"'Eight hundred gallons of oil,' he answered.

"'Take your note,' he said, 'quick, sit down, and write "four hundred."'

"Then he asked another, 'How much do you owe?'

"'A thousand bushels of wheat,' he answered.

"'Take your note,' he told him, 'and write "eight hundred."'

"And his master praised the dishonest manager for acting so shrewdly.

"The men of this world are wiser in dealing with their own kind of men than the people who are in the light.

"And I tell you, make friends for yourselves with the money that is used in wrong ways, so that when it is gone, you will be welcomed into the everlasting homes. If you can be trusted with very little, you can also be trusted with much. And if you are dishonest with very little, you are dishonest also with much. If you couldn't be trusted with wicked money, who will trust you with that which is really good? And if you couldn't be trusted with someone else's things, who will let you have your own?

"No servant can be the slave of two masters. Either he will hate the one and love the other, or he will be loyal to the one and despise the other. You cannot serve God and money."

The Pharisees, who loved money, heard all this, and they turned up their noses at Him. Then He said to them: "You try to make people think you are good, but God knows your hearts. That which people think is great is abominable before God."

"Until John there were the Law and the prophets. Since then the good news of God's kingdom is told, and everybody tries to force his way into it. It is easier for heaven and earth to disappear than to drop the dot of an *i* in the Law."

Husband and Wife

Some Pharisees came to Him to test Him. And so they asked Him, "Is it right for a man to divorce his wife for any reason?"

"What did Moses order you to do?" He asked them.

"Moses let a man *make out a divorce paper and divorce his wife,*" ¹¹⁶ they said.

"He wrote this law for you on account of your closed minds," Jesus told them, "and let you divorce your wives, but originally there was no such thing. Didn't you read that He who in the beginning created them *made them a male and a female?*" ¹¹⁷ Then He added: "*That is why a man will leave his father and mother and live with his wife, and the two will become one flesh.*" ¹¹⁸ And so they are no more two but one flesh. Now, what God has joined together man must not separate."

In the house the disciples also asked Him about this. "I tell you," He answered them, "if anyone divorces his wife, unless she has sex relations with another man, and he marries another, he is guilty of adultery with her. And if a wife

divorces her husband and marries another man, she is guilty of adultery. And the man who marries a woman who is divorced from her husband is guilty of adultery."

"If a man has to have such grounds in dealing with his wife," the disciples told him, "it is better not to marry."

"Not all can do this," He told them, "only those to whom it has been given. Some have by birth been unable to marry. Others have been mutilated by men, so that they cannot marry. And still others have decided to do without marriage for the kingdom of heaven. If anyone can do it, let him do it."

The Rich Man and Lazarus

There was a rich man. He dressed in purple and fine linen. He enjoyed himself and lived in splendor every day. A beggar by the name of Lazarus was laid at his gate. He was covered with sores, and he longed to satisfy his hunger with anything that fell from the rich man's table. And the dogs used to come and lick his sores.

One day the beggar died, and the angels carried him to Abraham's bosom. The rich man also died and was buried. Being tormented in hell, he looked up and saw Abraham far away and Lazarus at his bosom. And he called: "Father Abraham, have pity on me and send Lazarus to dip the tip of his finger in water and cool off my tongue, because I am tormented in this flame."

But Abraham said: "Remember, son, you've had your good things in your life, while Lazarus had his misery. Now he is comforted here, while you are tormented. In all these things there is a wide chasm fixed between us and you, so that those who might want to cross from here over to you cannot do it, nor can any who are there come over to us."

"Then I ask you, father," he said, "send him to my father's home — I have five brothers — to warn them so that they will not come to this place of torment."

"They have Moses and the Prophets," Abraham said. "They should listen to them."

"No, father Abraham," he said, "but if someone comes to them from the dead, they will repent."

"If they will not listen to Moses and the Prophets," he answered him, "they will not be convinced even if somebody rose from the dead."

Faith and Duty

Then the apostles said to the Lord, "Give us more faith."

"If your faith is like a mustard seed," the Lord said, "you could say to this mulberry tree, 'Be pulled up by the roots, and be planted in the lake,' and it would obey you."

"If any one of you has a slave who is plowing or watching sheep and he comes in from the field, will you say to him, 'Come quickly and eat'? Or won't you rather tell him, 'Prepare something for me to eat, fasten your belt, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterward you eat and drink'? You will not thank the slave for doing what he was ordered to do, will you? So you, too, when you have done all you were ordered to do, say: 'We are worthless slaves. We did only what we ought to have done.'"

On the Way to Jerusalem

Jesus Raises Lazarus

Then Lazarus was sick. He was from Bethany, the village where Mary and her sister Martha were living. Mary was the one who poured perfume on the Lord and wiped His feet with her hair. It was her brother Lazarus who was sick.

So the sisters sent someone to tell Jesus, "Lord, the one You love is sick."

When Jesus heard about it, He said: "The purpose of this sickness isn't death but the glory of God; it is to glorify the Son of God."

Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus. Now when He heard that Lazarus was sick, He stayed where He was for two more days. After that He said to His disciples, "Let us go back to Judea."

"Master," the disciples said to Him, "the Jews have just been trying to stone You, and are You going back there?"

"Aren't there twelve hours in a day?" Jesus answered. "If anyone walks during the day, he doesn't stumble, because he sees the light of this world. But if anyone walks at night, he stumbles, because he has no light."

After He had said this, He told them, "Our friend Lazarus has fallen asleep, but I will go and wake him."

"Lord, if he has fallen asleep," His disciples said to Him, "he will get well again."

Jesus meant that he was dead, but they thought He meant he was only sleeping. Then Jesus told them in plain words: "Lazarus is dead. And I'm glad I wasn't there — for your sake — so that you may believe. But let us go to him."

Then Thomas, who was called Twin, said to his fellow disciples, "Let us go, too, and die with Him."

When Jesus got there, He found that Lazarus had already been in the grave four days.

Bethany was near Jerusalem, not quite two miles away, and many Jews had come to Martha and Mary to comfort them about their brother.

Now when Martha heard, "Jesus is coming," she went to meet Him, while Mary stayed at home. "Lord, if You had been here," Martha told Jesus, "my brother would not have died. But even now I know that God will give You anything You ask Him."

"Your brother will rise again," Jesus told her.

"I know he will rise again," Martha answered Him, "in the resurrection on the Last Day."

"I am the Resurrection and the Life," Jesus said to her. "Anyone who believes in Me will live even if he dies. Yes, anyone who lives and believes in Me will never die. Do you believe that?"

"Yes, Lord," she told Him, "I believe You are the promised Savior, the Son of God, who is coming into the world."

After she had said this, she left and secretly called her sister Mary. "The Teacher is here," she said, "and is calling for you."

When Mary heard it, she got up quickly to go to Him. Jesus had not yet come to the village, but He was still where Martha had met Him. Now the Jews who were in the house with Mary to comfort her saw Mary get up quickly and leave. So they followed her, thinking that she was going to the grave to weep there. When Mary came to where Jesus was and saw Him, she knelt at His feet and said, "Lord, if You had been here, my brother would not have died."

When Jesus saw her weeping, and also the Jews weeping who came with her, He groaned with anger and was troubled.

"Where did you lay him?" He asked.

"Lord, come and see," they answered Him.

Jesus burst into tears. "See how He loved him," the Jews said. But some of them asked, "He opened the eyes of the blind man — couldn't He have kept this man from dying?"

Again groaning deeply, Jesus went to the grave. It was a cave with a stone laid against it. "Move the stone away," said Jesus.

Martha, the dead man's sister, told Him: "Lord, he already smells. He has been dead three days."

Jesus said to her, "Didn't I tell you, 'If you believe, you will see the glory of God'?" Then they moved the stone away.

Jesus looked up and said: "Father, I thank You for hearing Me. I knew right along that You always hear Me. But I spoke in order that the people who are standing around Me might believe that You have sent Me."

After He had said this, He called aloud, "Lazarus, come out!"

The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped in bandages and his face wrapped in a cloth. "Unwrap him," Jesus told them, "and let him go."

Now many Jews who had come to Mary and had seen what He did believed in Him. But some of them went to the Pharisees and told them what Jesus had done. Then the ruling priests and the Pharisees called a meeting of the Council. "What are we doing?" they asked. "This Man is doing many miracles. If we let Him go on like this, everybody will believe in Him, and then the Romans will come and take away our place and our nation."

But one of them, Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year, told them, "You don't know anything, and you don't consider that it is better for you to have one man die instead of the people, and not let the whole nation perish." He didn't think of this by himself, but being the high priest that year, he prophesied that Jesus was going to die for the nation, and not only for this nation but also to bring together the scattered children of God and make them one.

From that day on they planned to kill Him. So Jesus no longer walked in public among the Jews, but He left and went into the country near the wilderness, to a town called Ephraim. There He stayed with His disciples.

Only One Thanks God

On His way to Jerusalem, Jesus traveled along the border between Samaria and Galilee. As He came to a village, ten lepers came toward Him. They stopped at a distance, raised their voices, and called, "Jesus, Master, have pity on us!"

When He saw them, He told them, "Go and *let the priests examine* ¹¹⁹ you."

And this is what happened: As they went, they were cleansed of their leprosy. And one of them, seeing that he was healed, turned back and loudly praised God. He bowed to the ground at the feet of Jesus and thanked Him. And he was a Samaritan.

"Weren't all ten cleansed?" Jesus asked. "Where, then,

are the other nine? Was there no one who came back to give glory to God except this foreigner?

"Get up and go!" He told him. "Your faith has made you well."

Where Is the Kingdom?

"When will the kingdom of God come?" the Pharisees asked Jesus.

"People cannot see the coming of the kingdom of God," He answered them. "They will not say, 'Look, here it is!' or 'There it is!' because the kingdom of God is among you."

God Hears

Jesus told them a parable to show that people should always pray and not get tired of it.

"There was a judge in a town who didn't fear God or respect people. In that town there was also a widow who kept coming to him and saying, 'Help me by punishing my enemy!'

"For a while he refused to do anything, but later he said to himself: 'Even though I don't fear God or respect people, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, or she'll keep coming until she wears me out.'"

The Lord added: "Listen to what the unjust judge says. Now, then, will not God get justice for His chosen people who cry to Him day and night? Is He slow to help them? I tell you, He will quickly get justice for them. But when the Son of Man comes, will He find faith on earth?"

The Pharisee and the Tax Collector

Jesus told this parable to some who were sure they were righteous and so looked down on all others:

"Two men went up to the temple to pray. One was a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and prayed by himself: 'God, I thank You that I am not like the other people: robbers, wrongdoers, adulterers, or even like that tax collector. I fast twice a week and give a tenth of all my income.'

"But the tax collector, standing a distance away, wouldn't even look up to heaven, but was beating his breast and saying, 'God, forgive me, a sinner!'

"I tell you, this man, and not the other, went home justified. Everyone who honors himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be honored."

Jesus Loves Children

Then some people brought little children to Jesus to have Him lay His hands on them and pray. When the disciples saw them, they sternly told them not to do it.

But when Jesus saw this, He didn't like it at all. He called the children and said: "Let the little children come to Me. Don't keep them away. The kingdom of God belongs to such as these. I tell you the truth, if you don't receive the kingdom of God like a little child, you will not get into it."

He took them into His arms, laid His hands on them, and blessed them.

Then He left that place.

The Rich Young Leader

As Jesus went out along the road, an official came running to Him and knelt before Him. "Good Teacher," he asked Him, "what good work must I do to get everlasting life?"

"Why do you call Me good?" Jesus asked him. "Only God is good. Why do you ask Me about a good work? If you want to go into life, keep the commandments."

"Which commandments?" he asked Him.

"You know the commandments," Jesus told him. "*Don't murder, don't commit adultery, don't steal, don't lie, don't rob, honor your father and mother,*¹²⁰ and, *love your neighbor as yourself.*"¹²¹

"Teacher," the young man told Him, "I have kept all these since I was a child. What else do I need?"

Jesus listened to him, looked at him, and loved him. "You still lack one thing," He told him. "If you want to be perfect, go and sell all you have and distribute the money among the poor. Then you will have a treasure in heaven. And come and follow Me."

When he heard this, he looked gloomy and went away very sad, because he was very rich. Jesus watched him and then looked around. "I tell you the truth," He said to His disciples, "it is hard for rich people to get into the kingdom of God."

The disciples were surprised to hear Him say that. But Jesus said to them again: "Children, it is hard to get into the kingdom of God! Again I tell you, it is easier for a camel to go through a needle's eye than for a rich man to get into the kingdom of God."

The disciples were extremely surprised to hear this. "Who, then, can be saved?" they asked Him.

"Men cannot do this," Jesus said as He looked at them. "But God can, because *God can do anything.*"¹²²

"But here we are," Peter answered Him. "We gave up everything and followed You. What will we get?"

Jesus said to them: "Let Me assure you that in the new life, when the Son of Man will sit on His throne of glory, you who followed Me will also sit on twelve thrones and

rule the twelve tribes of Israel. And everyone who gave up homes or wife, brothers or sisters, mother, father, children, or fields for Me and for the good news—for the kingdom of God—will certainly get a hundred times as much here in this life: houses, brothers and sisters, mothers and children and fields—with persecutions—and in the coming world he will get everlasting life. But many who are first will be last, and the last will be first.”

The Last Will Be First

The kingdom of heaven is like the owner of a place who went out early in the morning to hire men to work in his vineyard. He agreed with the workers to pay them a denarius a day and sent them into his vineyard. About 9 o'clock he went out and saw other men standing in the market place and doing nothing. “You, too, go into the vineyard,” he told them, “and I will pay you what is right.” So they went.

He went out again about 12 o'clock and 3 o'clock and did the same thing. About 5 o'clock he went out and found others standing around. “Why are you standing here all day long doing nothing?” he asked them.

“Because nobody has hired us,” they answered him.

“You, too, go into the vineyard,” he told them.

When evening came, the owner of the vineyard told his manager: “Call the men and give them their pay. Start with the last, and end with the first.” Those who started working around 5 o'clock came, and each got a denarius. When the first ones came, they expected to get more, but each of them, too, got a denarius. They took it, but they complained against the owner. “These last men worked only one hour—and you have treated them exactly like us who have come through the hard work and the burning heat of the day.”

“Friend, I'm doing you no wrong,” he answered one of

them. "Didn't you agree with me on a denarius? Take your money and go. I want to give this last man as much as I give you. Don't I have the right to do as I please with what is mine? Or are you jealous because I'm generous?"

In this way the last will be first and the first will be last.

"I Will Die and Rise Again"

As they were on the road, going up to Jerusalem, Jesus walked ahead of them, and they were amazed. Those who kept following Him were afraid.

So once again He took the twelve with Him to be alone with them. On the road He began to tell them what was going to happen to Him. "Now we are going up to Jerusalem," He said, "and everything the prophets have written about the Son of Man will be done. The Son of Man will be betrayed to the ruling priests and the men of the Law, who will condemn Him to die and will hand Him over to the Gentiles. They will mock and insult Him, spit on Him, scourge Him, crucify and kill Him. And on the third day He will rise."

But they understood none of this. It was a mystery to them, and they didn't know what He meant.

The Cup of Suffering

Then the mother of James and John, the sons of Zebedee, came with her sons and knelt before Him. "Teacher," they said to Him, "we want You to do for us what we ask."

"What do you want Me to do for you?" He asked them.

She told Him, "Promise that one of my two sons will sit at Your right and the other at Your left in Your kingdom of glory."

"You don't know what you're asking," Jesus answered

them. "Can you drink the cup that I am going to drink or be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized?"

"We can," they told Him.

"You will drink the cup I am drinking," Jesus told them, "and you will be baptized with the baptism with which I am baptized. But sitting at My right and left is something I can give only to those for whom My Father has prepared it."

When the other ten heard about this, they got angry with James and John. Then Jesus called them and told them: "You know that the men who are honored as rulers of the nations are lords over them, and their great men are tyrants over them. But among you it is different. Anyone who wants to become great among you must be a servant of the others, and anyone who wants to be first among you must be everybody's slave. Why, even the Son of Man didn't come to be served but to serve and to give His life as a ransom for all people."

Two Blind Men at Jericho

Then they came to Jericho. As He and His disciples and many other people were leaving Jericho, two blind men were sitting by the road. One was Bartimaeus, the son of Timaeus, a beggar.

When they heard a crowd going by, one of them asked what it meant. They told him, "Jesus from Nazareth is passing by."

Then both called out, "Jesus, Lord, have pity on us, You Son of David!"

The crowd urged them to stop it and to be silent. But they cried out all the louder, "Lord, have pity on us, You Son of David!"

Jesus stood still and said, "Call them." As they called one blind man, they told him, "Cheer up and get up! He's

calling you!" He laid aside his garment, jumped up, and went to Jesus.

"What do you want Me to do for you?" Jesus asked.

"Lord, we want to see," they told Him.

Jesus felt sorry for them and touched their eyes. "Go, see again," Jesus said. "Your faith has healed you."

And immediately they could see, and they followed Him on the road, praising God. All the people saw this, and they praised God.

Zacchaeus

He went into Jericho and was passing through it. Here there was a man by the name of Zacchaeus. He was an overseer of the tax collectors, and he was rich. He was trying to see what kind of person Jesus was, but, being short, he couldn't see Him on account of the crowd. So he ran ahead and climbed up a fig-mulberry tree to see Him, because Jesus was coming that way.

When Jesus came to the place, He looked up. "Zacchaeus, hurry down," He told him. "Today I must stay at your home."

He hurried down and was happy to welcome Him. But all who saw them complained and said, "He went to be the guest of a sinful man."

Getting up, Zacchaeus said to the Lord, "See, Lord, half of my property I'm giving away to the poor, and if I've cheated anybody, I'm paying him back four times as much."

"Today salvation has come to this home," Jesus told him, "since he, too, is a son of Abraham. The Son of Man came to *look for* and to save *the lost*." ¹²³

Use God's Gifts

While the people were listening, Jesus went on to tell them a parable, because He was near Jerusalem and they

thought the kingdom of God was to appear immediately. He said:

"A nobleman went to a distant country to be made a king and then to come back. He called ten of his slaves, gave them a thousand denarii,* and told them, 'Buy and sell until I come.'

"But the men of his own country hated him, and they sent ambassadors after him to say, 'We don't want this man to be our king.'

"But he was made king. When he came back, he said, 'Call those slaves whom I gave the money so that I may find out how much each one has made by his trading.'

"The first came and reported, 'Master, your hundred denarii have made a thousand more denarii.'

"'Well done, good slave!' he told him. 'You proved you could be trusted in a very small matter. Rule over ten cities.'

"The second came and said, 'Your hundred denarii, master, made five hundred denarii.'

"'You be in charge of five cities,' he told this one.

"Then the one who was different from the others came and said, 'Master, here are your hundred denarii. I put them away in a cloth and kept them there. I was afraid of you because you are a hard man. You take up what you didn't lay down, and you reap what you didn't sow.'

"'I will judge you by what you say, you wicked slave!' he told him. 'You knew I am a hard man, that I take up what I didn't lay down and reap what I didn't sow? Why didn't you put my money in the bank? Then, when I came back, I could have collected it with interest.' So he told those who stood near, 'Take his hundred denarii away and give them to the man who has a thousand.'

"'He has a thousand denarii,' they answered him.

"'I tell you, to everyone who has something, more will be given, and from him who has nothing, even what he has

* One denarius was one day's pay.

will be taken away. But those enemies of mine who didn't want me to be their king — bring them here, and kill them in front of me.' ”

After Jesus had said this, He continued on His way up to Jerusalem.

Mary Anoints Jesus

The Jewish Passover was near, and many came from the country to Jerusalem before the Passover in order to purify themselves. They were looking for Jesus, and they asked one another as they stood in the temple: “What do you think? He'll not come to the festival, will He?” The ruling priests and the Pharisees had given orders that anyone who found out where He was should report it so that they might arrest Him.

Six days before the Passover, Jesus came to Bethany, where Lazarus was, whom Jesus had raised from the dead. He went into the home of Simon the leper. There a dinner was prepared for Him. Martha served, and Lazarus was one of those who were eating with Him.

Then Mary took a pound of perfume — a real nard and very expensive — in an alabaster jar, and she came to Him while He was lying down, broke the jar, and poured the perfume on the head and feet of Jesus and dried His feet with her hair. The fragrance of the perfume filled the house.

When the disciples saw this, they looked annoyed at one another. “Why was this perfume wasted like this?” they asked. And they scolded her. Judas (the man from Kerioth, one of His disciples who was going to betray Him) asked, “Why couldn't this perfume have been sold for more than three hundred denarii and the money given to the poor?” He said this, not because he cared about the poor but because he was a thief and used to steal what was put into the money box that he carried.

Knowing what was going on, Jesus said to them: "Let her alone. Why do you trouble the woman? She has done a beautiful thing to Me. You will always have the poor among you, and you can help them whenever you want to, but you will not always have Me. She has done what she could. She came early to pour this perfume on My body to prepare Me for My burial. I tell you, wherever men preach this good news in all the world, they certainly will also tell in memory of her what she has done."

A large crowd of the Jews found out that He was there, and they came, not only on account of Jesus but also to see Lazarus, whom He had raised from the dead. But the ruling priests decided to kill Lazarus too, because many Jews were leaving them on account of him and were believing in Jesus.

(Some of the material found near the Dead Sea suggests the possibility of a different dating for what happened from the Saturday before Palm Sunday to Good Friday. But the dating used here fits the text of our Gospels best.)

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In Jerusalem

The King Is Coming

The next day when they were getting near Jerusalem and had come to Bethphage and Bethany, at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of His disciples and told them: "Go into the village ahead of you, and just as you go into it, you will find a donkey which is tied and a colt, tied with her, on which nobody has ever sat. Untie them, and bring them to Me. And if anybody asks you, 'Why are you doing that?' say, 'The Lord needs it and will promptly return it to you.' And immediately he will send them."

The disciples whom He sent went and did as Jesus had directed them. They found a colt tied to the gate, outside in the street, as He had told them.

While they were untying the colt, its owners, who stood there, asked them, "Why are you untying the colt?"

"The Lord needs it," they said. Then the owners let them take it.

So they brought the donkey and the colt to Jesus, put their clothes on them, and set Jesus on the colt.

The people who had been with Him when He called Lazarus out of the grave and raised him from the dead were telling what they had seen. When the large crowd that had come to the festival heard that Jesus had done this miracle and that "Jesus is coming to Jerusalem," they took branches from the palm trees and went out to meet Him. As He was riding along, most of the people spread their clothes on the road. Others cut leafy branches from the trees in the fields and spread them on the road.

This happened in order that what the prophet had said would come true:

Tell the daughter of Zion, "Don't be afraid!

Look! Your King is coming to you,

*Gentle, riding on a donkey, the colt of a donkey."*¹²⁴

His disciples didn't understand this at first, but after Jesus was glorified, they remembered that this had been written about Him and had been done to Him.

"Stop Them"

As He was coming near the place where the road goes down the Mount of Olives, the whole crowd of the disciples who went ahead of Him and followed Him began to praise God joyfully and loudly for all the mighty works they had seen. They were shouting:

Our Savior, the Son of David!

*Blessed is He who is coming in the name of the Lord!*¹²⁵

He is the King of Israel!

Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!

Peace in heaven and glory in the highest heavens!

Then the Pharisees said to one another: "You see, you can't do anything. Look! The world is running after Him."

Some of the Pharisees in the crowd said to Him, "Teacher, urge your disciples to be quiet."

"I tell you," He answered them, "if these will be quiet, the stones will cry out."

When He came near and saw the city, He wept aloud over it and said: "If today you only knew — yes, you — the things that give peace, but now they are hidden from your eyes. The time will come for you when your enemies will put up ramparts against you, and they will surround you and press against you from every side. They will *dash* you and *your children to the ground*¹²⁶ and will not leave one stone on another within you, because you didn't know the time when your help came to you."

When He came into Jerusalem, the whole city was stirred, and it asked, "Who is this?"

The crowds answered, "This is the Prophet Jesus from Nazareth in Galilee."

He went into the temple and looked around at everything. The blind and the lame came to Him in the temple, and He healed them.

When the ruling priests and the men of the Law saw the wonderful things He did, and the children shouting in the temple, "*Our Savior*,¹²⁵ the Son of David!" they didn't like it at all. "Do you hear what they are saying?" they asked Him.

"Yes," Jesus answered them. "Have you never read, *Out of the mouth of babies and sucklings You have prepared praise?*"¹²⁷

Since it was late now, He left them and went with the twelve out of the city to Bethany and spent the night there.

Nothing but Leaves

Early the next morning when they left Bethany to go back to the city, Jesus was hungry. In the distance, by the road, He saw a fig tree with leaves, and He went to see if

He could find anything on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, because it was not the season for figs. Then He said to the tree (and His disciples heard Him): "May nobody ever eat fruit from you again!" And immediately the fig tree dried up.

He Cleanses the Temple Again

When they came to Jerusalem, He went into the temple and proceeded to drive out all who were selling and buying in the temple, and He upset the tables of the money-changers and the chairs of the men who sold pigeons. He would not let anyone carry a vessel across the temple grounds.

Then He taught: "Isn't it written, *My house should be called a house of prayer for all the nations?*¹²⁸ But you have made it a den of robbers."¹²⁹

Every day He was teaching in the temple. When the ruling priests, the men of the Law, and the leaders of the people heard Him, they tried to find a way to kill Him. But they couldn't find a way, because they were afraid of Him. He amazed all the people by His teaching, and they were all eager to hear Him.

During the day He would teach in the temple, and when evening came, He would leave the city and go out to the Mount of Olives, as it was called, and stay there for the night. Early in the morning all the people would come to Him in the temple to hear Him.

A Fig Tree Is Withered

When they walked by early in the morning, they saw the fig tree withered to its roots. The disciples were surprised. Peter, remembering, said to Him, "Master, look! The fig tree You cursed is dried up."

"How did the fig tree dry up so quickly?" the disciples asked.

"Believe in God," Jesus answered them. "I tell you the truth: You will not only do what I did to the fig tree, but if you will say to this mount,* 'Be lifted up and be thrown into the sea,'† and if you have no doubt in your mind but believe that what you say will be done, then it will be done for you. That is why I tell you, anything you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and you will have it. When you stand and pray, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins."

From Heaven

They came again into the temple in Jerusalem. As He was walking in the temple, teaching the people and telling the good news, the ruling priests, the men of the Law, and the elders of the people came to Him and asked Him: "Tell us, what authority have You to do these things? Or who gave You the right to do them?"

Jesus answered them: "Let Me ask you one question. And if you answer Me, I will tell you what right I have to do these things. Did John's baptism come from heaven or from men? Answer Me."

They argued among themselves: "If we say, 'From heaven,' He will ask us, 'Then why didn't you believe him?' But if we say, 'From men,' we are afraid of the people. All the people will stone us because they are convinced John was a prophet." So they answered Jesus, "We don't know."

Then Jesus told them, "Neither will I tell you what right I have to do these things."

* By this mount He means the Mount of Olives.

† By the sea He means the Dead Sea, which can be seen from the Mount of Olives.

Say and Do

"Now what do you think of this? A man had two sons. He went to the first and said, 'Son, go and work in the vineyard today.'

"I won't,' he answered. Later he changed his mind and went.

"He went to the other one and told him to do the same thing. He answered, 'I will, sir,' but didn't go.

"Which of the two did what the father wanted?"

They answered, "The first."

Jesus said to them: "I tell you the truth, the tax collectors and prostitutes are going into the kingdom of God ahead of you. John came to you in a righteous way, but you didn't believe him; the tax collectors and prostitutes believed him. But even after you saw that, you didn't repent and believe him."

God's Vineyard

Then He spoke to the people in parables. "Listen to another parable," He said.

"A man who owned property *planted a vineyard. He put a fence around it, dug a winepress in it and a vat, and built a watchtower.*¹³⁰ Then he rented the vineyard out to workers and left home for a long time.

"When the fruit was getting ripe, He sent a slave to get his share of the fruits of the vineyard from the workers. The workers took the slave, beat him, and sent him back empty-handed.

"He sent another slave to them. They struck him on the head, insulted him, and sent him back empty-handed.

"Then he sent a third slave. They stoned him, wounding him, and threw him out.

"He sent another, and they killed him.

"Then he sent many other slaves, more than those he sent at first, and they treated these the same way. Some they beat, others they killed.

"The owner of the vineyard had one more, a son whom he loved. Finally he said: 'What should I do? I will send my son, whom I love. It may be that they will respect my son.' So he sent his son to them.

"When those workers saw the son, they talked it over among themselves, saying: 'This is the heir. Come, let's kill him and get his inheritance.' So they took him, threw him out of the vineyard, and killed him.

"Now when the owner of the vineyard comes, what will he do to those workers?"

He was told, "He will come and have those wretches die miserably, and he will rent out the vineyard to other workers who will bring him the fruits when they are due."

"That must never happen!" said those who heard it.

Jesus looked at them and asked, "Have you never read in your Bible, *The Stone that the builders rejected was made the Cornerstone. This came from the Lord, and we think it is marvelous?*¹³¹ That is why I tell you, the kingdom of God will be taken away from you and be given to a people who will do its works. Everyone who falls on that Stone will be crushed, and if that Stone falls on anyone, It will scatter him like dust."

When the ruling priests and Pharisees (that is, the men of the Law) heard His parables, they knew that He was talking about them. They were eager to arrest Him then and there, but they were afraid of the people because they considered Him a prophet. So they let Him alone and went away.

Come to the Wedding!

Again Jesus spoke to them in parables and said:

"The kingdom of heaven is like a king who prepared a wedding for his son. He sent his slaves to call those who had been invited to the wedding, but they refused to come. Then he sent other slaves and said to them, 'Tell the people who are invited, "I have prepared my dinner. My bulls and fattened calves are killed, and everything is ready. Come to the wedding."' "

"But they paid no attention and went away, one to his farm, another to his business, and the rest took his slaves, shamefully mistreated them, and murdered them.

"The king got angry. He sent his soldiers, and they destroyed those murderers and burned down their town. Then he said to his slaves: 'The wedding is ready, but the people who were invited were not worthy of it. Now go where the roads leave the city, and call everybody you find there to the wedding.' Those slaves went out on the roads and brought in all the people they found, good and bad. And the wedding hall was filled with guests.

"When the king came in to see the guests, he saw there a man without a wedding garment. 'Friend,' he asked him, 'how did you get in here without a wedding garment?'

"The man couldn't say anything. Then the king told the servants, 'Tie him hand and foot, and throw him into the darkness outside. There he will weep and gnash his teeth.'

"Many are invited, but few are chosen."

Taxes

Then the Pharisees went and plotted against Him. They watched Him closely and sent their disciples with some of Herod's men to Him as spies, who were to act holy in order to trap Him in what He would say. They wanted to hand Him over to the control and authority of the governor.

They came and said to Him: "Teacher, we know You are honest. You are right in what You say and teach, and You don't care what others think, because You don't favor any special persons, but You teach the true way of God. Now tell us: What do You think? Is it right for us to pay a tax to Caesar or not? Should we pay it or not?"

Seeing how wicked and hypocritical they were, Jesus asked: "Why do you test Me, you hypocrites? Show Me the coin with which the tax is paid. Bring Me a denarius, and let Me see it."

They brought Him a denarius. "Whose head and inscription is this?" He asked them.

"Caesar's," they told Him.

"Then give to Caesar what is Caesar's," Jesus told them, "and to God what is God's."

They were surprised to hear Him give this answer, and they said nothing. They couldn't catch Him before the people in anything He said, and so they let Him alone and went away.

The Dead Live

On that day some Sadducees, who say that the dead don't rise, came to Him with a question. "Teacher," they said, "Moses wrote, *If a man dies and leaves a wife, but no children, his brother should marry his widow and have children for his brother.*¹³² Now, there were seven brothers among us. The first married and died, and since he had no children, he left his wife to his brother. The second married her and died without leaving a child. The third married her. In the same way all seven died and left no children. Last of all the woman also died. Now, when they rise from the dead, which of the seven will be her husband, seeing that she has been the wife of all seven?"

"You are wrong," Jesus answered them, "because you

don't know your Bible or the power of God. In this world men and women marry, but the men and women who have been considered worthy to rise from the dead and live in the other world don't marry but live like the angels in heaven. They also cannot die any more, because they are the children of God and share in the resurrection. Moses showed that the dead rise. Didn't you read in the book of Moses, in the passage about the bush, what God has told you about the rising from the dead, how God said to him, '*I am the God of Abraham and the God of Isaac and the God of Jacob*'?¹³³ He is not the God of dead but of living people. All who are with Him are alive. You are very much mistaken!"

His teaching astounded the people who heard Him.

Love God and Your Neighbor

When the Pharisees heard that He had silenced the Sadducees, they came together. One of them, an expert in the Law, hearing the others argue with Him and seeing how well Jesus answered them, came to Him. "Teacher," he asked Him to test Him, "which is the most important and greatest of all the commandments in the Law?"

Jesus answered, "The most important is: *Hear, Israel, the Lord, our God, is one Lord, and love the Lord, your God, with all your heart, with all your life, with all your mind, and with all your strength.*¹³⁴ That is the greatest and most important commandment. The next is like it: *Love your neighbor as yourself.*¹³⁵ No other commandment is greater than these. All the Law and the prophets depend on these two commandments."

"Right, Teacher!" the man of the Law said to Him. "You told the truth. *He is one, and there is no one else beside Him, and to love Him with all your heart, with all your understanding, and with all your strength,*¹³⁶ and to love your neigh-

*bor as yourself,*¹³⁵ is more than all the *burnt offerings and sacrifices.*"¹³⁷

When Jesus saw how sensibly he answered, He told him, "You're not far from the kingdom of God."

After that nobody dared to ask Him another question.

David's Son

While Jesus was teaching in the temple and the Pharisees were together, Jesus asked them: "What do you think of the promised Savior? Whose son is He?"

"David's," they answered Him.

"How can the experts in the Law say that the promised Savior is the son of David?" He asked them. "David himself by the Holy Spirit calls Him Lord in the Book of Psalms when he says:

The Lord said to my Lord,

'Sit at My right

*Until I make Your enemies a footstool for Your feet.'*¹³⁸

Now if David calls Him Lord, how can He be his son?"

Nobody could answer Him.

Beware!

The large crowd liked to hear Him. As He taught and all the people were listening, Jesus said to His disciples:

"Beware of the experts in the Law. They and the Pharisees sit in the seat of Moses. Do everything they tell you, and follow it; but don't do as they do, because they don't do as they say. They tie together heavy loads that are hard to carry and lay them on the shoulders of others, but they won't lift a finger to move them.

"They do everything to be seen by others. They make their phylacteries broad and the tassels of their garments long.

They like the places of honor at dinners and the front seats in the synagogues. They swallow the houses of the widows and then, to cover up, make long prayers. They will get all the more damnation. They like to go around in long robes and love to have others greet them in the marketplaces and call them rabbi. But don't you have others call you rabbi, because you have only one Teacher and you are all brothers. And don't call anyone on earth your father, because you have only one Father, and He is in heaven. Don't have others call you teachers, because you have only one Teacher, and that is Christ. He who is greatest among you will be your servant. Anyone who honors himself will be humbled, and anyone who humbles himself will be honored."

Woe!

"Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you lock people out of the kingdom of heaven. You will not come into it yourselves, and when others try to come in, you will not let them.

"Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you go around land and lake to convert a single person, and when he is converted, you make him twice as fit for hell as you are.

"Woe to you blind guides! You say: 'If anyone swears by the temple, that's nothing. But if anyone swears by the gold of the temple, he must keep his oath.' Blind fools, which is greater, the gold or the temple that made the gold holy? Or again: 'If anyone swears by the altar, that's nothing. But if anyone swears by the gift that is on it, he must keep his oath.' You blind men! Which is greater, the gift or the altar that makes the gift holy? If you swear by the altar, you swear by it and by everything that is on it. If you swear by the temple, you swear by it and by Him who lives there. And if

you swear by heaven, you swear by the throne of God and by Him who sits on it.

“Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites! You give a tenth of mint and dill and cummin but have neglected the more important things of the Law: justice, mercy, and faith. You should have done the one without neglecting the other. Blind guides! You strain out the gnat but swallow the camel.

“Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you clean the outside of the cup and of the dish, but inside they are full of greed and uncontrolled desires. You blind Pharisee! First clean the inside of the cup and of the dish in order to make also the outside of it clean. Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you are like white-washed graves that look beautiful on the outside but inside are full of dead men’s bones and nothing but decay. That is how you outwardly appear good to people but inwardly are full of hypocrisy and wrong.

“Woe to you men of the Law and Pharisees, you hypocrites, because you build the tombs of the prophets and decorate the graves of the righteous and say, ‘If we had lived at the time of our fathers, we would not have helped them murder the prophets.’ And so you testify against yourselves that you are the sons of those who murdered the prophets. Fill up, then, the measure of wrongs done by your fathers!

“Serpents! Brood of snakes! How can you escape your sentence to hell? That is why I am sending you prophets, wise men, and experts in the Law. Some of them you will kill and crucify. Others you will whip in your synagogues and hunt from one town to another, in order that all the innocent blood poured on the ground may come on you, beginning with the blood of righteous Abel to the blood of Zechariah, the son of Barachiah, whom you murdered between the holy place and the altar. I tell you, all this will certainly come on the people of today.

"Jerusalem, Jerusalem, you murder the prophets and stone those who are sent to you! How often I wanted to bring your children together as a hen gathers her chicks under her wings, and you refused! Now your *house is left to you as a desolate place*.¹³⁹ I tell you, you will not see Me again until You will say, '*Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord.*'" ¹⁴⁰

A Cent

As Jesus sat facing the treasury, He was watching how people put money into the treasury. Many rich people put in much. He saw a poor widow come and drop in two small coins, worth about a cent.

He called His disciples and told them: "I tell you, this poor widow certainly put in more than all the others who put money into the treasury. All the others took some of what they had left over and dropped it in among the gifts. But she put in what she needed for herself, everything that belonged to her, all she had to live on."

"We Want to See Jesus"

Among those who came up to worship at the festival were some Greeks. They went to Philip (who was from Bethsaida in Galilee) and told him, "Sir, we want to see Jesus." Philip went and told Andrew. Andrew and Philip went and told Jesus.

Jesus answered them: "The time has come for the Son of Man to be glorified. I tell you the truth, if a kernel of wheat doesn't fall into the ground and die, it will be just one kernel. But if it dies, it produces much grain. Love your life and lose it, but hate your life in this world, and you will keep it for an everlasting life. If you serve Me, follow Me; and where I am, there My servant will also be. If you serve Me, the Father will honor you."

The Light

*"I am deeply troubled"*¹⁴¹ now. But what should I say? Father, save Me from what is going to happen? No! For this I have come and am here now. Father, glorify Your name."

Then a voice came from heaven, "I have glorified My name and will again glorify it."

The crowd, which stood there and heard it, said it was thunder. Others said, "An angel spoke to Him." Jesus explained, "That voice did not come for My benefit but for yours.

"Now this world is to be judged; now the ruler of this world is to be thrown out. And once I have been lifted up from the earth, I will draw all people to Me." He said this to indicate how He was going to die.

Then the crowd answered Him: "We have heard from the Law that the promised Savior lives forever. How, then, can You say that the Son of Man must be lifted up? Who is this Son of Man?"

"The Light will be with you just a little longer," Jesus answered them. "Walk while you have the Light, or darkness will overtake you. If you walk in the dark, you don't know where you are going. While you have the Light, believe in the Light, that you may prove to be sons of light."

The Jews Don't Believe

After Jesus had said this, He went away and hid from them. Although He had done so many miracles before them, they wouldn't believe in Him, that the words of the prophet Isaiah might come true:

Lord, who has believed what we preach?

*Or to whom has the Lord's arm been made known?*¹⁴²

And so they couldn't believe, because Isaiah also said:

He has blinded their eyes

And closed their minds,

*So that their eyes will not see,
Their minds will not understand,
And they will not turn and let Me heal them.*¹⁴³

Isaiah said this because he saw His glory and spoke of Him. And yet even many of the rulers believed in Him, but they wouldn't say so publicly, because the Pharisees would have put them out of the synagog. Yes, they loved the praise of men more than the praise of God.

Then Jesus called out:

"If you believe in Me, you don't believe only in Me but in Him who sent Me. And if you see Me, you see Him who sent Me. I have come as a light into the world so that anyone who believes in Me will not have to stay in the dark. If anyone hears what I say but doesn't keep it, I don't condemn him, because I didn't come to condemn the world but to save the world. If anyone rejects Me and doesn't take to heart what I say, he has one who will condemn him. The Word that I spoke will condemn him on the Last Day, because what I said didn't come from Me, but the Father who sent Me ordered Me to say and tell it. I know that what He orders gives everlasting life. And so, whatever I say, I say it just as the Father has told Me."

The Temple Will Be Destroyed

When Jesus walked out of the temple and was going away, His disciples came to show Him the buildings of the temple. "Teacher," one of His disciples said to Him, "look at those wonderful stones and buildings!" And some were saying, "It is beautifully constructed with fine stones and gifts."

"Do you see all these large buildings?" Jesus asked them. "I tell you the truth: The time will come when no stone will be left on another here, but all will be torn down."

Sorrow Ahead!

When He was sitting on the Mount of Olives opposite the temple, Peter, James, John, and Andrew came to Him alone. "Teacher," they asked Him, "tell us when this will be and how we can tell when all this is going to happen, when You are coming back and the world will come to an end."

"Be careful not to let anyone lead you astray," Jesus answered them. "Many will come in My name and say, 'I am Christ,' and 'The time has come,' and they will lead many astray. Don't follow them."

"You will hear of wars, rumors of wars, and revolutions. See that you don't get alarmed. These things *must happen*¹⁴⁴ first, but the end will not come immediately."

Then He told them, "*Nation will fight against nation, and kingdom against kingdom.*"¹⁴⁵ There will be great earthquakes in different places, plagues and famines, terrible things and great signs coming from the sky. But all that is only the beginning of sorrows.

"Be on your guard! Before all these things happen, men will arrest you, persecute you, hand you over to town councils and church councils, and put you in prisons. They will whip you in their church councils. They will bring you before kings and rulers for My sake. It will be your chance to tell them the truth."

"First this good news of the kingdom must be preached all over the world so that all nations hear the truth, and then the end will come."

"When they are taking you away to deliver you to the authorities, make up your minds not to worry beforehand how you will defend yourselves. Just say whatever you will be told at that time, because I will give you such words of wisdom that none of your enemies will be able to oppose you or speak against you. You see, it isn't you who speak, but the Holy Spirit."

"They will kill you, and all nations will hate you on account of My name. Then *many will fall away*,¹⁴⁶ and they will betray one another and hate one another. Even parents, brothers, relatives, and friends will betray you and kill some of you. A brother will betray his brother to death, and a father his child. *Children will rebel against their parents*¹⁴⁷ and kill them. Many false prophets will arise and lead many people astray. And because there will be more and more wickedness, the love of most people will turn cold.

"But no hair on your head will be lost. If you endure to the end, you will be saved."

Jerusalem Will Be Destroyed

"When you see legions of soldiers surrounding Jerusalem and, as the prophet Daniel said, *the abomination that lays waste the land standing in the holy place*,¹⁴⁸ where it ought not to be (anyone who reads this should understand it), then know that the time has come for Jerusalem to be destroyed.

"Then those who are in Judea should flee to the hills. Those who are in Jerusalem should leave it. And those who are in the country should not go into the city. Anyone who is on the roof should not come down and go inside to get anything out of his house. Anyone who is in the field should not turn back to get his garment. Those will be *days of vengeance*¹⁴⁹ when everything must happen as it is written.

"Woe to the women who in those days are expecting babies or are nursing them. Pray that it may not be winter or a Sabbath when you flee. For then there will be great *misery, such as has not been from the time when God first made the world until now*¹⁵⁰ or ever will be. And if the Lord had not cut short those days, nobody would be saved. But God has cut short those days to help those whom He has chosen.

"There will be great distress in this country, and God will punish these people. The sword will cut them down, they will be made captives among all nations, and *the Gentiles will trample on Jerusalem*¹⁵¹ until the time for the Gentiles has passed."

Jesus Will Come Again

Jesus told the disciples: "The time will come when you will long to see one of the days of the Son of Man, and you will not see it. If at that time anyone tells you, 'See, here is Christ!' or 'There He is!' don't believe it. Don't go off and run after them, because false Christs and false *prophets will arise, and they will produce great signs and wonders*¹⁵² to lead astray, if possible, even those whom God has chosen. Be on your guard. I have told you everything before it happens. So when you are told, 'There He is in the wilderness,' don't go out; or 'Here He is in the inner rooms,' don't believe it. The Son of Man will come like the lightning that flashes from the east to the west and lights up the sky from one end to the other. (Where the dead body is, there the vultures will gather.) But first the Son of Man must suffer much and be rejected by the people of today.

"Right after the misery of that time there will be signs. *The sun will turn dark, the moon will not give her light, and the stars will be falling from the sky.*¹⁵³ And on the earth nations will be in distress. They will be bewildered by *the roaring and tossing of the sea,*¹⁵⁴ and people will faint as they fearfully wait for what is to happen to the world. *The powers of the heavens*¹⁵⁵ will be shaken. Then the sign of the Son of Man will appear in the sky, and then *all the people on earth will mourn,*¹⁵⁶ when they see *the Son of Man coming on the clouds in the sky*¹⁵⁷ with great power and glory. And *with a loud trumpet call,*¹⁵⁸ He will send out His angels, and they will gather His chosen ones *from the north, south, east, and west, from one end of the sky to the other.*¹⁵⁹

"When these things begin to happen, look up, and lift up your heads, because you will soon be set free."

Then He gave them an illustration: "Look at the fig tree, or any of the trees, and learn this lesson. When its branch becomes tender and leaves grow on it, you see and know without being told that summer is near. So also when you see those things happen, you know the kingdom of God is near, and He is at your door.

"I tell you the truth: These people will not pass away until all this happens. Heaven and earth will pass away, but what I say will not pass away."

People Will Not Expect Him

"No one knows about that day or hour, not the angels in heaven, not even the Son, but only the Father.

"When the Son of Man comes, it will be as it was in the days of Noah. In the days before the Flood, people kept on eating and drinking, and men and women were marrying till the day when *Noah went into the ark*. They learned nothing until *the Flood came* ¹⁶⁰ and swept them all away. It will be like that when the Son of Man comes.

"Or like the time of Lot. People were eating and drinking, buying and selling, planting and building. But on the day when Lot left Sodom, *fire and sulfur rained from heaven and destroyed* ¹⁶¹ them all. It will be like that on the day when the Son of Man will be revealed.

"On that day, anyone who is on the roof and has his goods in the house, should not go down to get them, nor should anyone who is in the field *turn back*. Remember *Lot's wife!* ¹⁶² Anyone who tries to save his life will lose it, but anyone who will lose it will save it.

"I tell you, that night there will be two men in one bed. One will be taken, and the other will be left. Two men will

be in a field. One will be taken, and the other will be left. Two women will be grinding at a mill. One will be taken, and the other will be left."

They asked him, "Where, Lord?"

"Where there is a dead body," He told them, "there the vultures will gather."

Be Ready!

"Be careful, watch and pray, because you don't know when it will happen. It is like a man who went on a trip. As he left home, he put his slaves in charge of his place, assigned work to everyone, and ordered the doorkeeper to watch. Watch, then, because you don't know when the master of the house is coming, whether in the evening, at midnight, at the time when the rooster crows, or early in the morning. Otherwise he may come suddenly and find you sleeping. What I say to you, I say to all of you: Watch! Always be ready, and have your lamps burning. Be like men who are expecting their master when he returns from the wedding, so that when he comes and knocks, they will immediately open the door for him. Blessed are those slaves whom the master will find watching when he comes. I tell you, he will certainly gird himself, have them lie down for a meal, and come and serve them. If he comes in the second or third watch of the night and finds them watching, they are blessed.

"Now you know that if the owner of a house had known at what time of the night the thief was coming, he would have stayed awake and not let anyone break into his house. You, too, get ready, because the Son of Man is coming when you don't expect Him."

"Lord," Peter asked, "is this parable which you tell meant for us or for everybody?"

The Lord said: "Now who is the faithful and wise manager whom the master has put in charge of his servants

to give them their share of food at the right time? Blessed is that slave whom his master will find doing just this when he comes. I tell you, he certainly will make him manager of all his property. But if that slave is wicked and says to himself, 'My master isn't coming back for some time,' and then he starts to beat his fellow slaves, the men and the women, and he eats, drinks, and gets drunk with the drunkards, the master of that slave will come on a day when he's not expecting him and at an hour which he doesn't know, and he will cut him in pieces and put him with the unfaithful, with the hypocrites. There they will weep and gnash their teeth.

"That slave who knew his master's will and yet didn't prepare himself or do what he wanted him to do will get many beatings. But he who did not know his will and did things for which he deserved to be beaten will get few beatings. Much will be required of everyone to whom much was given, and all the more will be demanded of him to whom much was entrusted.

"Be careful never to burden your hearts with dissipation, drunkenness, and worries about this life, or that day will take you by surprise like a *trap*. It will surprise all people wherever they *live on the earth*.¹⁶³ But always watch and pray that you may be considered worthy to escape all these things that are going to happen and to stand before the Son of Man."

The Bridegroom Is Coming

"Then the kingdom of heaven will be like ten girls who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom. Five of them were foolish, and five were wise. The foolish girls brought their lamps, but they brought no extra oil. The wise brought flasks of oil with their lamps. While the bridegroom delayed, all became drowsy and fell asleep.

"But at midnight there was a shout: 'The bridegroom is here! Come out and meet him!' Then all those girls woke up and got their lamps ready.

"But the foolish asked the wise, 'Give us some of your oil. Our lamps are going out.'

"'No!' the wise girls answered. 'Or there will not be enough for us and for you. Go to the dealers, and buy some for yourselves.'

"While they were gone to buy it, the bridegroom came, and the girls who were ready went with him to the wedding, and the door was shut.

"Later the other girls also came and said, 'Lord, lord, open the door for us!'

"'I tell you the truth,' he answered them: 'I don't know you.'

"Watch, therefore, because you don't know the day or the hour."

Three Kinds of Workers

"It is like a man who was going on a trip. He called his slaves and put his property into their hands. He gave one man \$10,000,* and another \$4,000, another \$2,000, each according to his ability. Then he left.

"The man who had received \$10,000 immediately went and put them into business. And he made another \$10,000. The man who had \$4,000 did the same thing and made another \$4,000. But the man who received \$2,000 went and dug a hole in the ground and hid his master's money.

"After a long time the master of those slaves came and had them give an account. The man who had received \$10,000 came and brought another \$10,000. He said, 'Master, you let me have \$10,000. See, I have made another \$10,000.'

"'Well done, you good and faithful slave!' his master said to him. 'You proved you could be trusted with a little. I will

* It is hard to estimate the real value of a "talent." It is here taken to be equal to \$2,000.

put you in charge of much. Come and share the joy of your master.'

"The man who had received \$4,000 came and said, 'Master, you let me have \$4,000. See, I have made another \$4,000.'

"'Well done, you good and faithful slave!' his master answered him. 'You proved you could be trusted with a little. I will put you in charge of much. Come and share the joy of your master.'

"Then came also the man who had received \$2,000. 'Master,' he said, 'I found out that you are a hard man. You reap where you didn't sow, and you gather where you didn't scatter. I was afraid; so I went and hid your \$2,000 in the ground. There's your money!'

"'You wicked and lazy slave!' his master answered him. 'You knew that I reap where I didn't sow and I gather where I didn't scatter? Then you ought to have invested my money with the bankers, and when I came back, I could have gotten my money back with interest. Take the \$2,000 away from him and give it to him who has \$10,000. Whoever has anything will receive, and so he will have more and more. And from him who has nothing even that which he has will be taken away. Throw this good-for-nothing slave into the darkness outside, where there will be weeping and gnashing of teeth.'"

Jesus Will Judge the World

"When the Son of Man *will come* in His glory *and all the angels with Him*,¹⁶⁴ then He will sit on His throne of glory. Then all nations will be gathered before Him, and He will separate them from one another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and He will have the sheep stand at His right, but the goats at His left.

"Then the King will say to those at His right, 'Come, you whom My Father has blessed, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the time the world was made. I was hungry,

and you gave Me something to eat; I was thirsty, and you gave Me a drink; I was a stranger, and you took Me in; naked, and you clothed Me; sick, and you looked after Me; in prison, and you visited Me.'

"Then the righteous will ask Him: 'Lord, when did we see You hungry and feed You, or thirsty and give You a drink? When did we see You a stranger and take You in, or naked and clothe You? When did we see You sick or in prison and visit You?'

"And the King will answer them, 'Let Me assure you, as you did this to one of the least of My brothers, you did it to Me.'

"Then He will say to those at His left: 'Go away from Me, you cursed ones, into the everlasting fire, prepared for the devil and his angels. I was hungry, and you gave Me nothing to eat; thirsty, and you didn't give Me a drink; a stranger, and you didn't take Me in; naked, and you didn't clothe Me; sick and in prison, and you didn't look after Me.'

"Then they, too, will ask, 'Lord, when did we see You hungry or thirsty or a stranger or naked or sick or in prison and didn't help You?'

"Then He will answer them: 'I tell you the truth: Because you didn't do it to any of these least ones, you didn't do it to Me.'

"Then *these* will go away to *everlasting* punishment, but the righteous to *everlasting* life."¹⁶⁵

The Plot

The Festival of Unleavened Bread, called the Passover, was near. Before the Passover, Jesus knew that the time had come for Him to leave this world and to go to the Father. He had loved His own who were in the world, and now He loved them to the end. "You know that in two days the Passover

will be celebrated," He said to His disciples, "and the Son of Man will be handed over to be crucified."

Then the ruling priests, the elders of the people, and the men of the Law met in the palace of the high priest, whose name was Caiaphas. They plotted and were looking for a way, by trickery, to arrest Jesus and kill Him. They were afraid of the people. So they said, "It must not be in the crowd at the festival, or a riot may break out among the people."

The devil went into Judas, called the man from Kerioth, one of the twelve. He went to the high priests and the captains of the temple and discussed with them how he might betray Jesus to them. "What will you give me?" he asked the high priests. "I will betray Him to you."

They were delighted to hear that. They agreed to give Him some money, and they *weighed out thirty shekels* * of *silver* ¹⁶⁶ for him.

He promised to do it. And after this he was looking for an opportunity, when Jesus would be away from the crowd, to betray Him to them.

* A silver shekel weighed as much as our half dollar.

His Last Preparation

The Passover

Then came the first day of the Unleavened Bread, when the Passover lamb had to be killed, and the disciples came to Jesus. He sent Peter and John, saying, "Go, prepare the Passover for us so we may eat it."

"Where do You want us to go," His disciples asked Him, "and prepare for You to eat the Passover?"

"Go into the city," He told His two disciples, "and you will meet a man carrying a jar of water. Follow him into the house which he enters, and tell the owner of the house: 'The Teacher says, "My time is near. I am coming to you to celebrate the Passover. Where is My room in which I can eat the Passover with My disciples?"'" Then he will show you a large room upstairs, furnished and ready. Prepare for us there."

The disciples did as Jesus directed them. They left, went into the city, and found everything as He had told them. And so they prepared the Passover.

In the evening when the hour had come, He came with the twelve apostles and lay down for the meal. "I have very much longed to eat this Passover with you before I suffer," He said to them. "I tell you, I will not eat it again until it is fulfilled in the kingdom of God." Then He took the cup and gave thanks. "Take this," He said, "and share it."

Jesus Washes the Disciples' Feet

It was during the supper. The devil had already put the idea of betraying Jesus into the mind of Judas, the son of Simon from Kerioth.

Jesus knew that the Father had put everything into His hands and that He had come from God and was going back to God.

Then the disciples began to quarrel among themselves as to which of them might be considered the greatest.

So Jesus rose from supper, laid aside His outer garment, took a towel, and tied it around Himself. Then He poured water into a basin and started to wash the disciples' feet and to dry them with the towel that was tied around Him.

And so He came to Simon Peter. "Lord," Peter asked Him, "are You going to wash my feet?"

"What I am doing you don't understand now," Jesus answered him. "But later you will know."

"No!" Peter told Him. "You will never wash my feet."

"If I don't wash you," Jesus answered him, "you have no share in Me."

"Lord," Simon Peter told Him, "not only my feet but also my hands and my head."

"Anyone who has bathed needs only to have his feet washed," Jesus told him. "He is clean all over. You are clean,

but not all of you." He knew who was betraying Him. That was why He said, "Not all of you are clean."

After He had washed their feet and put on His garment, He lay down again. "Do you know what I have done to you?" He asked them. "You call Me Teacher and Lord, and you are right, because I am that. Now if I, the Lord and the Teacher, have washed your feet, you, too, ought to wash one another's feet. I have given you an example so that you will do as I did to you. Let me assure you: A slave is no greater than his master, and a man who is sent is no greater than he who sends him. If you know this, you are happy if you act according to it.

"The kings of the nations are lords over them, and their rulers call themselves benefactors. With you it is different. The greatest among you should become like the youngest, and one who leads should be like one who serves. Who is greater, the man who lies down to eat or the one who serves him? Isn't it the man who lies down to eat? But I am among you as one who serves.

"You have stood by Me in the troubles that have tested Me. As My Father has appointed Me to be King, so I appoint you to eat and drink at My table in My kingdom, and you will sit on thrones and rule the twelve tribes of Israel.

"I am not speaking of all of you. I know whom I have chosen. But what the Bible says must come true: *He who eats My bread has kicked Me.*¹⁸⁷ From now on I am telling you these things before they happen, so that when they happen, you will believe that I am He.

"I tell you the truth: He who receives anyone whom I send receives Me, and he who receives Me receives Him who sent Me."

"Is It I?"

After Jesus had said this, and while they were still lying down and eating, He was deeply troubled. "I tell you the

truth," He declared, "one of you is going to betray Me, one who is *eating with Me!*¹⁶⁷ Look, the hand of him who is betraying Me is with Me on the table."

The disciples looked at one another, puzzled and wondering whom He meant. They started to feel very sad and to discuss with one another which of them was going to do this, and they asked Him, one after another, "You don't mean me, Lord?"

"One of the twelve!" He answered them. "One who is dipping into the bowl with Me will betray Me. The Son of Man is going away as it has been decreed and written about Him, but woe to that man who betrays the Son of Man! It would have been better for that man if he had never been born."

One of His disciples, the one whom Jesus loved, was lying close to the bosom of Jesus. Simon Peter motioned to him to ask whom He might mean.

Leaning back, where he was, against the bosom of Jesus, he asked Him, "Lord, who is it?"

"I will dip this piece of bread and give it to him," Jesus answered. "He is the one." Then he dipped it and gave it to Judas, the son of Simon from Kerioth.

"You don't mean me, Master?" asked Judas, who was going to betray Him.

"Yes!" He told him.

After Judas had taken the piece of bread, Satan went into him. So Jesus told him, "What you are going to do, do quickly." Why He said this to him, nobody at the table knew. Some thought that since Judas had the money box, Jesus told him, "Buy what we need for the festival," or that he should give something to the poor.

Right after Judas had taken the piece of bread, he went outside. And it was night.

When Judas had gone out, Jesus said: "Now the Son of Man is glorified, and in Him God is glorified. God will also glorify Him in Himself; yes, He will glorify Him immediately."

The Lord's Supper

In the night in which He was betrayed, as they were eating, the Lord Jesus took bread and gave thanks. Then He broke it and gave it to the disciples, saying: "Take and eat. This is My body, which is given for you. Do this to remember Me."

In the same way He took the cup when the supper was over, and He gave thanks. He gave it to them, saying, "Drink of it, all of you." And all drank of it. Then He said to them, "This is My *blood of the new covenant*,¹⁶⁸ poured out for you and for all to forgive their sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, to remember Me.

"Surely, I tell you, I will not drink again of this product of the vine until that day when I will drink it in a new way with you in the kingdom of God, My Father."

Then they sang a hymn.

Jesus Warns Peter

"Children," Jesus said, "I am with you just a little longer. You will look for Me, but as I told the Jews, so I tell you now: Where I am going, you cannot come.

"I'm giving you a new order: Love one another! Love one another as I have loved you. If you love one another, everybody will know you are My disciples."

"Lord, where are You going?" Simon Peter asked Him.

"Where I am going, you cannot follow Me now," Jesus answered him; "but you will follow Me later."

"Lord, why can't I follow You now?" Peter asked Him.

"Simon, Simon," said the Lord, "you know that Satan has begged to have all of you to sift you like wheat. But I prayed for you, Simon, that your faith may not die. And when you have come back, strengthen your fellow disciples."

"Lord," he told Him, "I am ready to go to prison and to die with You. I will give my life for You."

"You will give your life for Me?" Jesus asked. "I tell you the truth, Peter, the rooster will not crow tonight until you have denied three times that you know Me."

"When I sent you out without purse, bag, or shoes, you didn't lack anything, did you?" He asked them.

"Not a thing!" they answered.

"But now," He told them, "if you have a purse, take it, and also a bag. And if you don't have a sword, sell your coat and buy one. It is written, *He will be counted among criminals*,¹⁶⁰ and I tell you, that must happen to Me. Whatever is written about Me must happen!"

"Lord, look, here are two swords!" they said.

"Enough of that!" He told them.

"I Am Going Away"

"Don't feel troubled. Believe in God, and believe in Me. In My Father's house there are many rooms. If it were not so, I would have told you, because I go to prepare a place for you. And when I have gone and prepared a place for you, I will come again and take you home with Me that you may be where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going."

"Lord, we don't know where You are going," Thomas said to Him. "Then how can we know the way?"

"I am the Way, the Truth, and the Life," Jesus answered him. "No one comes to the Father except by Me. If you have learned to know Me, you will know My Father also. From now on you know Him and have seen Him."

Philip said to Him, "Lord, show us the Father; that's enough for us." Jesus answered him:

"I have been with you so long and you don't know Me, Philip? If you have seen Me, you have seen the Father. How

can you say, 'Show us the Father'? Don't you believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in Me? What I tell you doesn't come from Me, but the Father who lives in Me is doing His works. Believe Me that I am in the Father, and the Father is in Me. Or else believe Me on account of My works.

"I tell you the truth, he who believes in Me will do the works I am doing, and he will do greater works than these, because I am going to the Father, and I will do whatever you ask in My name in order that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask Me for anything in My name, I will do it.

"If you love Me, you will do what I command. And I will ask the Father, and He will give you another Comforter to be with you forever. He is the Spirit of truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it doesn't see or know Him. You know Him because He lives with you and will be in you.

"When I leave you, you will not be orphans; I will come back to you. Only a little while, and the world will not see Me any more. But you will see Me, because I live, and you, too, will live. On that day you will know I am in My Father, and you in Me, and I in you. If you have My commandments and keep them, you love Me. And if you love Me, My Father will love you, and I will love you, and I will show Myself to you."

Judas (not the man from Kerioth) asked Him, "Lord, why are You going to show Yourself to us but not to the world?" Jesus answered him:

"If you love Me, you will keep what I say, and My Father will love you, and We will come to you and live with you. Anyone who doesn't love Me doesn't keep what I say. And you are hearing not what I say but what the Father says who sent Me.

"I have told you this while I am still living with you. But the Comforter, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of everything I told you.

"I leave peace with you, I give you My peace. I don't give it as the world gives it. Don't feel troubled or afraid. You heard Me tell you, 'I am going away, but I'm coming back to you.' If you loved Me, you would be glad I am going to the Father, because the Father is greater than I.

"I have told you this now, before it happens, in order that when it happens, you will believe. I will not say much more to you, because the ruler of the world is coming. And yet he has no claim on Me. But the world should know that I love the Father and am doing just what the Father ordered Me to do.

"Come, let us go away."

The Vine and the Branch

"I am the real Vine, and My Father takes care of the vineyard. He cuts away any branch of Mine that bears no fruit, and He trims any branch that bears fruit to make it bear more fruit.

"What I have said to you has already made you clean. Stay in Me, and I will stay in you. A branch cannot bear any fruit by itself — if it doesn't stay in the vine. Neither can you if you don't stay in Me. I am the Vine, you are the branches. If you stay in Me, and I in you, you bear much fruit. Without Me you can do nothing. If anyone doesn't stay in Me, he is thrown away like a branch, and he dries up. Such branches are gathered, thrown into the fire, and burned. If you stay in Me and what I say continues in you, ask for anything you want, and it will be done for you. You glorify My Father when you bear much fruit and so prove to be My disciples. As the Father has loved Me, so I have loved you. Stay in My love. If you do as I order you, you will stay in My love. In the same way I have done as My Father orders Me, and so I stay in His love. I have told you this that My joy may be yours and you may be very happy. I order you to love one

another as I have loved you. No one has a greater love than he who gives his life for his friends. You are My friends if you do as I order you. I don't call you servants any more, because a servant doesn't know what his master is doing. But I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I heard from My Father. You didn't choose Me, but I chose you and appointed you to go and do good works that don't pass away. And I want the Father to give you anything you ask Him in My name. These instructions I give you so that you may love one another.

"If the world hates you, remember that it hated Me first. If you belonged to the world, the world would love you as its own. But you don't belong to the world; I took you away from the world; that is why the world hates you. Remember what I told you: 'A servant is no greater than his master.' If they persecuted Me, they will persecute you. If they kept what I said, they will keep what you say. Now they will do all this to you on account of Me, because they don't know Him who sent Me. If I had not come and spoken to them, they would have no sin, but now they have no excuse for their sin. Anyone who hates Me hates My Father. If I had not done the works among them that no one else has done, they would have no sin. But now they have seen and hated Me and My Father. What is written in their Law must come true: *They will hate Me without any reason.*¹⁷⁰

"When the Comforter comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth, who comes from the Father, He will tell the truth about Me. And you, too, tell the truth, because you have been with Me from the beginning."

Sorrow Will Turn to Joy

"I told you this to keep you from falling. You will be put out of the synagog. Yes, the time will come when anyone who murders you will think he is serving God. Men will do such things because they didn't get to know the Father or Me.

But I have told you this so that when it happens you will remember that I told you about it. I didn't tell you this at first, because I was with you.

"Now I'm going to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' But because I told you this, you feel very sad. But I tell you the truth, it is good for you that I go away. If I don't go away, the Comforter will not come to you. But if I go, I will send Him to you. He will come and convict the world of sin, righteousness, and judgment: of sin, because they don't believe in Me; of righteousness, because I'm going to the Father and you will not see Me any more; of judgment, because the ruler of this world is judged.

"I have much more to tell you, but you cannot bear it now. But when He, the Spirit of truth, comes, He will lead you into the whole truth. What He will say will not come from Himself, but He will speak what He hears and so will tell you what is coming. He will glorify Me, because He will take from what is Mine and tell it to you. All that the Father has is Mine. That is why I said, He takes from what is Mine and will tell it to you.

"Just a little while, and you will not see Me any more; and again only a little while, and you will see Me."

Then some of His disciples asked one another: "What does He mean when He tells us, 'Just a little while, and you will not see Me; and again only a little while, and you will see Me,' and 'I am going to the Father'?" So they were asking, "What does He mean when He says, 'A little while'? We don't know what He means."

Jesus saw that they wanted to ask Him a question. "Are you trying to find out from one another," He asked them, "what I meant by saying, Just a little while, and you will not see Me; and again only a little while, and you will see Me? I tell you the truth, you will cry and mourn, but the world will be glad. You will feel sad, but your sadness will turn to joy. When

a woman is giving birth to a child, she has pains because her time has come. But after the child is born, she is so happy a child was brought into the world that she doesn't remember her pains any more. You, too, feel sad now; but I will see you again, *and then you will be glad*,¹⁷¹ and nobody will take your joy away from you. Then you will ask Me no questions. I tell you the truth, if you ask the Father for anything, He will give it to you in My name. Until now you didn't ask for anything in My name. Ask and you will receive, and you will be very happy.

"I told you these things in veiled speech. The time is coming when I will no more speak to you in veiled speech, but I will tell you in plain words about the Father. Then you will ask in My name, and I don't tell you that I will ask the Father for you. The Father Himself loves you, because you have loved Me and have believed that I came from the Father. I went out from the Father and came into the world; and now I am leaving the world and going to the Father."

"Yes, now You are speaking in plain words," His disciples said, "and are using no veiled speech. Now we know that You know everything and don't need anyone to question You. That is why we believe You have come from God."

"Now do you believe Me?" Jesus asked them. "The hour is coming, yes, it is here now, when you will scatter, everyone to his home, and you will leave Me alone. But I am not alone, because the Father is with Me. I told you this that in Me you might have peace. In the world you have trouble. But have courage, I have conquered the world."

Jesus Prays

After saying this, Jesus looked up to heaven and said:

"Father, the time has come. Glorify Your Son that Your Son may glorify You, since You have given Him power over all men that He may give everlasting life to all whom You

have given Him. This is everlasting life — to know You, the only true God, and Jesus Christ, whom You have sent. I have glorified You on earth by finishing the work You gave Me to do. And now, Father, glorify Me at Your side with the glory I had with You before the world began.

“I made Your name known to those people whom You have given Me from the world. They were Yours, and You gave them to Me, and they have kept Your Word. Now they know that all You gave Me comes from You, because I gave them the message You gave Me, and they have accepted it. And they have learned the truth that I came from You, and they have believed that You sent Me.

“I pray for them. I do not pray for the world but for those whom You gave Me, because they are Yours. All that is Mine is Yours, and what is Yours is Mine. And I am glorified in them. I am no longer in the world, but they are in the world, and I am coming to You. Holy Father, keep them in Your name which You have given Me, that they may be one as We are one. While I was with them, I kept them in Your name, which You gave Me. I watched over them, and none of them was lost — except that one person who was lost in order that what the Bible says might come true.

“But now I am coming to You, and I say this while I am in the world that in their hearts they may feel all My joy. I have given them Your Word, and the world has hated them, because they don’t belong to the world any more than I belong to the world. I don’t ask You to take them out of the world but to keep them from the Evil One. They don’t belong to the world any more than I belong to the world.

“Make them holy by the truth; Your Word is truth. As You sent Me into the world, I sent them into the world. I give Myself in this holy way for them that the truth may make them holy. I do not ask for them only but also for the people who through their Word believe in Me. Let them all be one. As you, Father, are in Me and I in You, let them

be in Us so that the world may believe You sent Me. I gave them the glory which You gave Me that they may be one as We are one. I am in them, and You are in Me that they may become perfectly one and that the world may know You have sent Me and have loved them as You have loved Me.

“Father, I want those whom You have given Me to be with Me where I am and to see My glory which You have given Me because You loved Me before the world was made. Righteous Father, the world did not know You, but I knew You, and these have learned to know that You have sent Me. I have told them — and I am going to tell them — Your name, that the love with which You have loved Me may be in them and I in them.”

· 11 ·

Our Suffering Savior

"You Will Deny Me"

Jesus and His disciples started out on the way to the Mount of Olives.

Then Jesus said to them: "All of you will turn against Me tonight, because it is written: I will *strike down the Shepherd, and the sheep of the flock will be scattered.*¹⁷² But after I am risen, I will go ahead of you to Galilee."

"Even if all will turn against You," Peter answered Him, "I will never turn against You."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus told him, "tonight before the rooster crows twice, you will deny Me three times."

But Peter protested more ardently, "Even if I have to die with You, I will never deny You." All the other disciples said the same thing.

Gethsemane

Jesus took His disciples, as He often had done, to the other side of the Kidron valley, and there He went with them into a garden called Gethsemane.

"Sit down here while I go over there and pray," He told them. "And you pray that you may not be tempted."

Then He took with Him Peter and Zebedee's two sons, James and John, and withdrew from the others about as far as one would throw a stone. He began to feel terror and grief, and He said to them, "*My soul is so full of sorrow* ¹⁷³ that I am almost dying. Stay here, and watch with Me."

He went ahead a little, bowed down with His face on the ground, and prayed that if it were possible, He might not have to suffer what was ahead of Him. "My Father," He said, "You can do anything. If it is possible and if You wish, take this cup from Me, but Your will, not Mine, be done."

An angel from heaven appeared to Him and gave Him strength. And as He began to struggle inwardly, He prayed more earnestly, and His sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground.

After praying, He got up, went to the disciples, and found them sleeping because they were feeling sad. "Simon, are you sleeping?" He asked Peter. Then He said to them, "So you couldn't keep awake with Me one hour! Why are you sleeping? Get up, watch, and pray that you may not be tempted. The spirit is willing, but the flesh is weak."

Then He went away a second time and prayed the same as before: "My Father, if this cannot pass by Me and I must drink it, Your will be done."

He came again and found them sleeping. They couldn't keep their eyes open. And they didn't know what to say to Him.

Leaving them again, He went and prayed the same prayer a third time. Then He came to the disciples the third time.

"Are you going to sleep on now and rest?" He asked them. "It is enough. The time has come. Now the Son of Man will be betrayed into the hands of sinners. Get up, let us go. Here comes the man to betray Me!"

Judas Betrays Jesus

Judas, one of the Twelve, who was betraying Him, also knew the place, because Jesus and His disciples had often met there. Judas had taken the troop of soldiers and servants from the ruling priests, the men of the Law, and the elders of the people. And just then, while Jesus was still speaking, they came there, a large crowd with lanterns and torches, swords and clubs. The traitor had given them a signal. "The One I kiss is the man," he said. "Arrest Him, take Him away, and don't let Him escape."

Then Jesus went out, knowing exactly what was going to happen to Him. "Whom are you looking for?" He asked them.

"Jesus of Nazareth," they answered Him.

"I am He," Jesus told them.

Judas, ready to betray Him, was standing with them. When Jesus told them, "I am He," they went backward and fell on the ground.

He asked them again, "Whom are you looking for?"

"Jesus of Nazareth," they said.

"I told you, I am He," Jesus answered. "Now if you are looking for Me, let these men go." This was to fulfill what He had said: "I have lost none of those You gave Me." *

At that moment Judas, who led them, stepped up to Jesus. "Greetings, Master," he said, and he kissed Him tenderly.

"Friend, what are you here for?" Jesus asked him. "Judas, are you betraying the Son of Man with a kiss?"

* John 6:39.

The Arrest

The men around Jesus, seeing what was going to happen, asked, "Lord, should we strike with our swords?"

Then the others came forward, took hold of Jesus, and arrested Him.

Simon Peter, standing near Jesus, reached for his sword and drew it. He struck the high priest's slave and cut off his right ear. The slave's name was Malchus.

Then Jesus said: "Let them do it. No more of this!" And touching the man's ear, He healed him.

Then Jesus said to Peter: "Put your sword back into its scabbard. All who take the sword must die by the sword. Or do you think I cannot call on My Father to send, right now, more than seventy thousand angels to help Me? How, then, could the Bible be true when it says that this must happen? Shouldn't I drink the cup that the Father has given Me?"

Then Jesus said to the crowd of ruling priests, captains of the temple, and elders who had come for Him: "You came out to arrest Me with swords and clubs as if I were a robber! Day after day I was with you as I sat and taught in the temple, and you laid no hands on Me to arrest Me. But this is your time when darkness rules. All this is done so that what the prophets have written may come true."

Then all the disciples left Him and ran away. One young man who was following Him wore only a linen cloth. They tried to take him, but he left the linen cloth and ran away naked.

So the troop of soldiers, the captain, and the attendants of the Jews arrested Jesus, bound Him, led Him away, and took Him to the high priest's palace. They took Him to Annas first, because he was the father-in-law of Caiaphas, who was the high priest that year. It was Caiaphas who had advised the Jews, "It is best that one man dies for the people."

Peter Follows Jesus

But Simon Peter was following Jesus at a distance. Another disciple also was following Him. That disciple was known to the high priest, and he went with Jesus into the high priest's courtyard. But Peter was standing outside the door. So the other disciple, whom the high priest knew, went out and talked to the girl who watched the door and brought Peter into the courtyard of the high priest.

The slaves and the servants who were standing around had lit a fire in the middle of the courtyard and had made a heap of burning coals, because it was cold. As they sat together and warmed themselves, Peter also stood and sat with the attendants, warming himself at the fire. He wanted to see how this would end.

Before Annas

Then the high priest asked Jesus about His disciples and His teaching.

"I have spoken publicly to the world," Jesus answered him. "I have always taught in a synagog or in the temple, where all the Jews meet, and I haven't said anything in secret. Why do you ask Me? Ask those who heard Me; they know what I said to them."

When He said this, one of the attendants who was standing near Jesus slapped His face. "Is that how You answer the high priest?" he asked.

"If I said anything wrong," Jesus answered him, "tell Me what was wrong. But if I told the truth, why do you slap Me?"

Then Annas sent Him bound to Caiaphas, the high priest.

The First Trial Before the Jewish Court

All the ruling priests, elders, and men of the Law had been called together at the home of Caiaphas, the high priest.

The ruling priests and the whole Jewish court tried to get false testimony against Jesus in order to kill Him, but they couldn't find any. While many came forward to give false testimonies against Him, their testimonies did not agree.

At last two men came forward and gave false testimonies against Him, saying: "We heard Him say: 'I can tear down the temple of God and build it in three days'; 'I will tear down this temple, made by human hands, and in three days build another that is not made by human hands.'" But not even on this point did their testimonies agree.

Then the high priest stepped forward. "Don't You have anything to say to this?" he asked Jesus. "What is this that they are testifying against You?"

But Jesus kept silent and didn't answer.

Then the high priest said to Him: "Swear by the living God, and tell us: Are You the promised Savior, the Son of God, the Blessed One?"

"I am," Jesus answered him. "But I tell you, from now on you will all see *the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of power and coming in the clouds of heaven.*"¹⁷⁴

Then the high priest tore his robe. "He has blasphemed!" he declared. "Why do we need any more witnesses? You have just heard the blasphemy. What is your verdict?"

Then all condemned Him and said, "He must die!"

Then some of them began to spit in His face. And the men who were holding Him were making fun of Him. They covered His face and struck Him with their fists, and some slapped Him. "Prophecy, You Christ, and tell us: Who struck You?" they were asking Him. They were also speaking many other blasphemies against Him.

Then the attendants took charge of Him, and they also slapped Him.

Peter Denies Jesus

Peter was sitting outside, down in the courtyard. As he sat in the light, the doorkeeper, one of the maids of the high priest, saw him warming himself. She came to Peter. "You aren't one of this Man's disciples, are you?" she asked.

"I am not," he answered.

"You were with Jesus of Nazareth in Galilee," she said, looking straight at him. "He was with Him."

But he denied it before all of them: "I don't know Him, woman, and I don't know what you're talking about."

After a little while he went out to the entrance. Then a rooster crowed.

Another maid saw him. "He was with Jesus of Nazareth," she told the men who were standing around. "He's one of them."

Simon Peter continued to stand and warm himself. So the men asked him, "You aren't one of His disciples, are you?" One man looked at him and said, "You are one of them."

Again Peter denied, and he swore: "Man, I am not! I don't know the Man!"

About an hour later another insisted: "Certainly he was with Him. Why, he's a Galilean!" The men who stood near him came and told Peter, "You certainly are one of them, because your way of speaking shows who you are. You are a Galilean!" One of the slaves of the high priest, a relative of the man whose ear Peter had cut off, asked, "Didn't I see you with Him in the garden?"

Again Peter denied: "Man, I don't know what you mean," and he cursed and swore: "I don't know this Man of whom you are talking." Just then, while he was still speaking, a rooster crowed a second time.

Then the Lord turned and looked at Peter, and Peter remembered what the Lord had said to him: "Before the rooster crows twice today, you will deny Me three times." He went outside and started to cry bitterly.

The Second Meeting of the Jewish Court

As soon as it was morning, all the ruling priests and the elders of the people, including the men of the Law, that is, the whole Jewish court, had a meeting. They brought Jesus before their court and said, "If You are the promised Savior, tell us."

"If I tell you, you will not believe Me," He said to them. "And if I ask you a question, you will not answer. But from now on *the Son of Man* will be *sitting at the right hand*¹⁷⁴ of the power of God."

"Are You, then, the Son of God?" all of them asked.

He answered them, "As you say: I am He."

"Why do we need any more testimony?" they asked. "We have heard it ourselves from His own lips."

Then the whole crowd of them decided to kill Jesus. They got up, bound Jesus, took Him from Caiaphas to the governor's palace, and handed Him over to Pilate, the governor. It was early in the morning.

The End of Judas

When Judas, who had betrayed Him, saw that Jesus was condemned, he felt sorry, and he brought the thirty shekels of silver back to the high priests and elders. "I have sinned," he said. "I have betrayed innocent blood."

"What do we care about that?" they asked. "See to that yourself."

Then he threw the money into the temple and left. And he went and hanged himself. As he fell forward, he burst in the middle, and all his bowels poured out.

The high priests took the money. "It isn't right to put this into the temple treasury," they said, "because it is blood money." So they decided to buy the potter's field with it for

the burial of strangers. That is why that field has ever since been called the Field of Blood.

Then what the prophet Jeremiah had said came true: *I took the thirty shekels of silver, the price of Him on whom some men of Israel set a price, and I gave them for the potter's field, as the Lord directed me.*¹⁷⁵

Before Pilate

The Jews themselves didn't go into the governor's palace, to keep from getting unclean, because they wanted to celebrate the Passover. So Pilate came out to them. "What accusation do you bring against this Man?" he asked.

"If He were no criminal," they answered him, "we would not have handed Him over to you."

"You take Him yourselves," Pilate told them, "and judge Him according to your law."

"We are not permitted to kill anyone," the Jews answered him. And so what Jesus had said was to come true. He had predicted how He was going to die.

Then they started to accuse Him: "We found that He leads our people astray, keeps them from paying taxes to Caesar, and says He is Christ, a king."

Pilate went back into the palace and called for Jesus. When Jesus stood before the governor, Pilate asked Him, "Are you the King of the Jews?"

"Did you think of that yourself," Jesus asked, "or did others tell you about Me?"

"Am I a Jew?" Pilate asked. "Your own people and the ruling priests handed You over to me. What did You do?"

"My kingdom is not of this world," Jesus answered. "If My kingdom were of this world, My servants would fight to keep Me from being handed over to the Jews. But now My kingdom is not of this world."

"Then You are a king?" Pilate asked Him.

"Yes, I am a king!" Jesus answered. "I was born and came into the world to testify to the truth. Everyone who lives in the truth listens to Me."

Pilate said to Him, "What is truth?" After saying that, he went out to the Jews again, and he told the ruling priests and the crowd, "I don't find this Man guilty of anything."

While the ruling priests and elders continued to accuse Jesus of many things, He said nothing.

"Don't You have anything to say to this?" Pilate asked Him again. "Don't You hear all these accusations they bring against You?"

But Jesus didn't answer him any more in regard to anything that was said, so that Pilate was very much surprised.

Before Herod

The priests and the crowd kept urging him. "He stirs up the people," they said, "by teaching all over the country of the Jews, beginning in Galilee and coming here."

When Pilate heard that, he asked, "Is the Man from Galilee?" And when he found out that Jesus came from the country ruled by Herod, he sent Him to Herod, who at that time also was in Jerusalem.

Herod was very glad to see Jesus. For a long time he had wanted to see Him, because he had heard about Him, and he hoped to see Jesus do some miracle. He asked Him a lot of questions, but Jesus didn't answer him. And the ruling priests and the men of the Law were standing there and accusing Him with all their might.

So Herod and his soldiers treated Him with contempt and made fun of Him. They put fine clothes on Him, and then sent Him back to Pilate. On that day Herod and Pilate became friends. Before this they had been enemies.

Then Pilate called the ruling priests, the other leaders, and the people together. "You brought me this Man as one

who turns away the people," he told them. "And now look, I have examined Him before you, but I haven't found this Man guilty of any of the things of which you accuse Him. Nor did Herod, because he sent Him back to us. You see, He has done nothing to deserve death. So I will teach Him a lesson and let Him go."

Barabbas

Now at every festival the governor used to free one prisoner whom the crowd wanted and asked for. Just then there was a well-known robber by the name of Barabbas. He had been put in prison with the men who had revolted in the city and had committed a murder. And the crowd came up and asked Pilate to do for them as he had done before.

"You have a custom that I free someone for you at the Passover," Pilate answered them. "Whom do you want me to set free for you, Barabbas or Jesus, the King of the Jews, who is called Christ?" He knew that the ruling priests had handed Jesus over to him because they were jealous.

While Pilate was sitting on the judge's seat, his wife sent someone to tell him: "Let that righteous Man alone. I have suffered much in a dream today on account of Him."

But the ruling priests and elders stirred up the people to get them to ask Pilate to free Barabbas for them and to get them to kill Jesus.

"Which of the two," the governor asked them, "do you want me to set free for you?"

Then the whole crowd cried out: "Not this one. Away with Him! Free Barabbas for us."

But Pilate wanted to let Jesus go, and he called to them again: "Then what should I do with Jesus, who is called Christ and whom you call the King of the Jews?"

Again all of them cried aloud: "Crucify, crucify Him!"

But Pilate spoke to them a third time: "Why, what wrong has He done? I have found in Him nothing that deserves death. So I will teach Him a lesson and let Him go."

But they kept shouting louder and louder, "Crucify Him!" and their shouts were overpowering Pilate.

When he saw that he wasn't getting anywhere, but that instead a riot was breaking out, Pilate took water and washed his hands before the crowd. "I am innocent of the blood of this righteous Man," he said. "You see to it!"

And all the people answered, "His blood be on us and on our children."

Then Pilate, wanting to satisfy the people, decided that what they demanded should be done. He let them have Barabbas, who had been put in prison for revolt and murder but whom they were asking for.

"Look at the Man!"

So Pilate took Jesus and had Him scourged. Then his soldiers took Jesus, brought Him into the courtyard of the governor's palace, called together and gathered around Him the whole troop of soldiers.

The soldiers took off His clothes and put a scarlet cloak on Him. They twisted some thorns into a crown, placed it on His head, and put a stick into His right hand. They went up to Jesus, knelt before Him, and bowed down to Him. In mockery they greeted Him: "Hail, King of the Jews!" They spit on Him, took the stick, and hit Him on the head with it; and they slapped His face.

After they had mocked Him, Pilate went outside again. "I am bringing Him out to you," he told them, "to let you know that I don't find Him guilty of anything." Jesus came outside, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple cloak. "Look at the Man!" Pilate said to them.

When the ruling priests and the servants saw Him, they shouted, "Crucify, crucify Him!"

"You take Him," Pilate told them, "and crucify Him yourselves, because I don't find Him guilty of anything."

"We have a law," the Jews answered Him, "and according to the law He must die, because He made Himself the Son of God."

When Pilate heard them say that, he was frightened still more. He went into the palace again. "Where are You from?" he asked Jesus. But Jesus didn't answer him.

"Don't You speak to Me?" Pilate then asked Him. "Don't You know I have the power to free You or to crucify You?"

"You wouldn't have any power over Me," Jesus answered him, "if it hadn't been given to you from above. That is why the man who handed Me over to you is guilty of a greater sin."

This made Pilate anxious to let Him go, but the Jews shouted: "If you let Him go, you are no friend of Caesar. Anyone who makes himself a king is against Caesar."

When Pilate heard this, he brought Jesus outside and sat in the judge's seat at a place called "Stone Pavement," or "Gabbatha" in the language of the Jews. It was the Friday of the Passover, and it was about 6 o'clock.

"Look at your King!" he said to the Jews.

Then they shouted, "Away with Him! Kill Him! Crucify Him!"

"Shall I crucify your King?" Pilate asked them.

"We have no king but Caesar," the ruling priests answered.

Then Pilate handed Jesus over to them to be crucified, as they desired it.

On the Way

The soldiers took off the purple cloak and put His own clothes on Him. Then they took Jesus and led Him out to crucify Him. He was carrying His cross.

As they went out, they found a man from Cyrene by the name of Simon, the father of Alexander and Rufus. He was passing by as he came in from the country. They took hold of him, laid the cross on him, and forced him to carry it behind Jesus.

A large crowd of the people followed Him. The women in the crowd were beating their breasts and weeping over Him. Turning to them, Jesus said: "Daughters of Jerusalem, don't cry over Me, but cry over yourselves and your children, because the time is coming when people will say:

'Happy are —

The women who couldn't have children,
The wombs that didn't bear,
And the breasts that didn't nurse.'

Then people will begin to say —

To the mountains: Fall on us!
*And to the hills: Cover us!*¹⁷⁶

If this is done to the green tree, what will be done to the dry?"

Two others, who were criminals, also were taken away to be killed with Him.

"They Crucified Him"

They took Him to what was called the Place of a Skull, which the Jews call Golgotha.

*They tried to give Him a drink of wine, mixed with myrrh and gall,*¹⁷⁷ but when He tasted it, He refused to drink it.

There they crucified Him. Then they also crucified two robbers with Him, one at His right, the other at His left, and Jesus in the middle. It was 9 o'clock in the morning when they crucified Him.

Then Jesus said, "Father, forgive them; they don't know what they are doing."

When the soldiers had crucified Jesus, they took His clothes and divided them into four parts, one for each soldier, drawing lots to see what each one should take. The tunic had no seam; it was woven in one piece from top to bottom. "Let us not tear it," they said to one another, "but let us draw lots to see who gets it," so that the words of the Bible might come true: *They divided My clothes among them, and for My garment they drew lots.*¹⁷⁸ That was what the soldiers did. Then they sat down there and kept watch over Him.

Pilate had written a notice, stating the reason why Jesus was punished, and the soldiers put it above His head on the cross. He had written, "This is Jesus from Nazareth, the King of the Jews." Many Jews read this notice, because the place where Jesus was crucified was near the city, and it was written in Aramaic, Latin, and Greek.

Then the high priests of the Jews told Pilate, "Don't write, 'The King of the Jews,' but 'He said, "I am the King of the Jews."'"

"What I have written," Pilate answered, "I have written."

The people stood there *watching*.¹⁷⁹ Those who passed by mocked Him, *shaking their heads*¹⁸⁰ and saying: "Ha! You who would tear down the temple and build it in three days, save Yourself if You are the Son of God, and come down from the cross."

In the same way the ruling priests, the men of the Law, and elders were *sneering*¹⁷⁹ and making fun of Him among themselves. "He saved others," they said, "but He cannot save Himself. He should save Himself if He is the Savior whom God has chosen. He is the King of Israel; now He should come down from the cross. He should let us see that, and we will believe in Him. *He trusts in God; let God deliver Him now if He likes Him.*"¹⁸¹ Didn't He say, 'I am the Son of God'?"

The soldiers also made fun of Him by going up to Him and *offering Him sour wine*.¹⁷⁷ "If You are the King of the Jews," they said, "save Yourself."

A Robber Turns to Jesus

In the same way also the robbers who were crucified with Him insulted Him. One of the criminals who had been crucified there mocked Him: "Aren't You the promised Savior? Save Yourself and us!"

But the other one warned him. "Aren't you afraid of God," he asked him, "seeing that you are condemned just as He is? Our punishment is just. We are getting what we deserve for what we have done. But This One has done nothing wrong."

Then he said, "Jesus, remember me when You come to Your kingdom."

"I tell you the truth," Jesus said to him: "Today you will be with Me in Paradise."

Mary

Now His mother, His mother's sister, Mary, the wife of Clopas, and Mary from Magdala were standing by the cross of Jesus.

Jesus saw His mother and the disciple whom He loved standing near. "Woman," He said to His mother, "there is your son!"

Then He said to the disciple, "There is your mother!"

From that time on the disciple took her into his home.

Three Dark Hours

It was about noon when darkness came over the whole country, because the sun had stopped shining, and the darkness lasted until 3 o'clock in the afternoon.

About 3 o'clock Jesus called out aloud, "*Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?*"¹⁸² which means, "My God, My God, why did You forsake Me?"

When some of the men who stood near heard this, they said, "Listen! He is calling Elijah."

After that, because He knew that everything had now been done, and in order that the words of the Bible might come true, Jesus said, "*I am thirsty.*"¹⁷⁷

A jar full of *sour wine* was standing there. Immediately one of the men ran, took a sponge, and soaked it in *sour wine*. He put it on a stick of hyssop, held it to the mouth of Jesus, and *gave Him a drink.*¹⁷⁷ "Let us see," he and the others said, "if Elijah will come to save Him and take Him down."

Now when Jesus had taken the wine, He said, "It is finished!"

Jesus Dies

Again Jesus called out aloud, "Father, *into Your hands I entrust My spirit.*"¹⁸⁸ After He said this, He bowed His head and gave up His spirit.

Just then the curtain in the temple was torn in two from top to bottom, the earth was shaken, the rocks were split, the graves were opened, and many bodies of the holy people who had gone to their rest came back to life. They came out of the graves after He had risen, went into the holy city, and showed themselves to many people.

The captain who stood facing Jesus saw how He gave up His spirit, and he praised God. "This Man certainly was righteous," he said. As he and his men were watching over Jesus, they saw the earthquake and the other things that happened, and they were very much afraid. "He certainly was the Son of God," they said.

When all the people who had come together to see this saw what happened, they beat their breasts and turned back.

All *His friends were standing* there, and many women who had followed and helped Jesus while He was in Galilee. Among them were Mary from Magdala and Mary, the mother of James

the Less and of Joseph, and Salome, the mother of Zebedee's sons. They had come up to Jerusalem with Him, and now had been watching Him *from a distance*.¹⁸⁴

No Bone Broken

Since it was Friday and the Jews didn't want the bodies to stay on the crosses on Saturday, because that Sabbath was an important day, they asked Pilate to have the legs of the men broken and the bodies taken away. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first man and then of the other who had been crucified with Him.

But when they came to Jesus, they saw that He was already dead. They didn't break His legs, but one of the soldiers stuck a spear into His side, and immediately blood and water came out. He who saw it has testified about it, and his testimony is true, and he knows he is telling the truth in order that you, too, may believe.

This happened so that the statement might come true, *None of His bones will be broken*.¹⁸⁵ And at another place the Bible says, *They will look at Him whom they pierced*.¹⁸⁶

Jesus Is Buried

In the evening there came a rich man by the name of Joseph from Arimathea, a town of the Jews. He was an important member of the Jewish court, a good and righteous man, who was waiting for the kingdom of God. He was a disciple of Jesus, but secretly because he was afraid of the Jews. He had not voted for their plan and action.

Since it was the day of preparation, that is, Friday, he dared to go and ask Pilate to let him take away the body of Jesus.

Pilate was surprised that He should be dead already. He called the captain and asked him, "Has He already died?"

When the captain told him, Pilate ordered that the body be given to Joseph.

Joseph bought a linen cloth and came and took down the body of Jesus. Then came also Nicodemus, who at first had come to Jesus at night. He brought a mixture of myrrh and aloes, about seventy-five pounds. So they took the body of Jesus and wrapped and bound it with the spices in clean linen cloths, according to the Jewish custom of burying the dead.

There was a garden at the place where Jesus had been crucified, and in the garden was Joseph's new grave, which he had cut in the rock and in which no one had yet been laid. Here, then — because it was the day of preparation among the Jews, and the day of rest was just beginning, and the grave was near — they laid Jesus.

The women who had come with Him from Galilee followed them. Mary from Magdala was there and the other Mary, the mother of Joses. They sat before the grave and saw where and how His body was laid. Joseph rolled a large stone against the door of the grave and went away. The women went back and prepared spices and perfumes. But on Saturday they rested according to the commandment.

The Guard

The next day — the Saturday after the day of preparation — the ruling priests and Pharisees met with Pilate. "Sir," they said, "we remember how that deceiver, while He was still alive, said, 'On the third day I will arise.' Now, order the grave to be made secure till the third day, or His disciples may come and steal Him and then tell the people, 'He arose from the dead.' Then the last deception will be worse than the first."

"Take a guard," Pilate told them, "go and make it as secure as you know how."

So they went and secured the grave by sealing the stone and setting the guard.

· 12 ·

Our Risen Savior

Jesus Rises from the Dead

On Saturday evening Mary from Magdala and Mary, the mother of James, and Salome bought spices to go and anoint Jesus.

But on Sunday morning there was a great earthquake. An angel of the Lord came down from heaven, went and rolled the stone away, and sat on it. He was as bright as lightning, and his clothes were as white as snow. The guards were so afraid of him that they shook and became like dead men.

While it was still dark, the women started out to see the grave. They came to the grave when the sun was up and were bringing the spices they had prepared. "Who is going to roll the stone from the door of the grave for us?" they asked one another, because it was very large. But when they looked up, they saw that the stone had been rolled back.

Then Mary from Magdala ran to Simon Peter and the other disciple whom Jesus loved. "They have taken the Lord out of the grave," she told them, "and we don't know where they have laid Him."

The other women went into the grave, but they didn't find the body of the Lord Jesus. While they were troubled about this, suddenly two men stood beside them in clothes that flashed like lightning, one young man, dressed in a white robe, sitting at the right. The women were terrified, and they bowed down to the ground.

"Don't be afraid," the angel said to the women. "I know you are looking for Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified. Why do you look among the dead for Him who is alive? He is not here. He is risen as He said. Remember what He told you while He was still in Galilee, 'The Son of Man must be handed over to sinful men, be crucified, and rise on the third day.'" (They remembered what He had said.) "Come, see the place where He was laid. And go quickly, tell His disciples and Peter: 'He has risen from the dead. You know He is going ahead of you to Galilee. There you will see Him as He promised.' Now I have told you."

They went out and hurried from the grave, because they were trembling and bewildered with fear and great joy. They were so frightened that they said nothing to anyone but ran to tell the news to His disciples.

Peter and John

Peter and the other disciple started out on the way to the grave. At first the two ran side by side, but the other disciple ran faster than Peter and was the first to come to the grave.

He looked in and saw the linen cloths lying there, but he didn't go in. Then Simon Peter came after him, and he went into the grave. He bent down and saw only the linen cloths lying there and the cloth that had been on Jesus' head, not

lying with the linen cloths but rolled up in a place by itself. Then the other disciple, who had come to the grave first, also went in, saw it, and believed. They had not yet understood what the Bible meant when it said that He must rise from the dead.

So the disciples went home again, and Peter wondered what had happened.

"Mary!"

After Jesus rose early on Sunday, He showed Himself first to Mary from Magdala, out of whom He had driven seven evil spirits.

Mary stood outside, facing the grave and crying. As she cried, she looked into the grave and saw two angels in white clothes, sitting where the body of Jesus had been lying, one at the head and the other at the feet. "Woman, why are you crying?" they asked her.

"They have taken my Lord away," she told them, "and I don't know where they have laid Him."

As she said this, she turned around and saw Jesus standing there, but she didn't know it was Jesus. "Woman, why are you crying?" Jesus asked her. "Whom are you looking for?"

"Sir," she said to Him, thinking He was the gardener, "if you have carried Him away, tell me where you laid Him, and I will take Him away."

"Mary!" Jesus said to her.

She turned. "Rabboni!" she said to Him in the Jewish language. (It means "my Master.")

"Don't hold on to Me," Jesus told her, "because I haven't yet gone up to the Father. But go to My brothers and tell them, 'I am going up to My Father and your Father, to My God and your God.'"

Mary from Magdala went to the disciples, who had been

with Him and who now were mourning and crying. She told them, "I have seen the Lord," and that He had said this to her.

When they heard that He was alive and had been seen by her, they didn't believe her.

The Other Women See Jesus

When the other women came back from the grave, Jesus met them. "Good morning!" He said. They went up to Him, took hold of His feet, and worshiped Him.

"Don't be afraid," Jesus said to them. "Go and tell My brothers to go to Galilee, and there they will see Me."

They reported all these things to the Eleven and to all the others. The women who told the apostles about these things were Mary from Magdala and Johanna and Mary, the mother of James, and the others.

But the apostles thought they were talking nonsense and wouldn't believe them.

The Guards

While the women were on their way, some of the guards went into the city and told the high priests all that had happened.

These met with the elders and agreed on a plan. They gave the soldiers a large sum of money and told them: "Say, 'His disciples came at night and stole Him while we were sleeping.' And if this comes to a hearing before the governor, we will persuade him and see that you have nothing to worry about."

They took the money and did as they were told. And that story has been spread among the Jews to this day.

On the Way to Emmaus

Later, on the same day, two of the followers of Jesus were going into the country, to a village called Emmaus, about

seven miles from Jerusalem. They were talking about everything that had happened.

While they were talking and discussing, Jesus Himself joined them and walked with them. But He appeared in a different form, and their eyes were kept from knowing who He was.

"What are you discussing as you walk along?" He asked them.

They stood still and looked gloomy. "Are you the only stranger living in Jerusalem," the one called Cleopas asked Him, "who doesn't know what has happened there these days?"

"What do you mean?" He asked.

"All about Jesus from Nazareth," they told Him, "who was a prophet mighty in His work and word before God and all the people, and how our high priests and rulers handed Him over to be condemned to death and how they crucified Him. But we were hoping He would be the One to free Israel. Besides all this, it is now the third day since this happened. Then some of our women also startled us. They went to the grave early this morning and didn't find His body. They came and told us they had even seen a vision of angels who said He is alive. Some of the men who are with us went to the grave and found it as the women had said, but they didn't see Him."

"How foolish you are," He told them, "and how slow to believe all the prophets have said! Didn't the promised Savior have to suffer this and so go to His glory?" Then, starting with Moses and all the prophets, He explained to them in all their writings what they had said about Him.

Meanwhile they had come near the village where they were going, and He acted as though He were going farther. "Stay with us," they urged Him. "It is getting late, and the day is almost gone." So He went in to stay with them.

While He was at the table with them, He took the bread, blessed and broke it, and gave it to them. Then their eyes

were opened, and they knew who He was. But He vanished from them.

"Didn't our hearts burn within us," one said to the other, "as He talked to us on the way and explained the Bible to us?"

That same hour they started out, went back to Jerusalem, and found the eleven and those who were with them all together. These said, "The Lord really did arise, and Simon saw Him."

Then the two men told the others what had happened on the way and how they had recognized Him while He was breaking the bread. But the others didn't believe them.

Behind Locked Doors

On that Sunday evening the doors were locked where the disciples were, because they were afraid of the Jews. He showed Himself to the eleven while they were at the table. They were talking of what had happened, when Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace to you!" He said to them.

They were startled and terrified, thinking that they were seeing a ghost.

"Why are you troubled?" He asked them. "And why do doubts come into your minds? Look at My hands and My feet: It is I Myself. Feel Me and see. A ghost doesn't have any flesh and bones such as you see Me have." As He said this, He showed them His hands and His feet and His side.

Then the disciples were delighted to see the Lord. While they were still too happy to believe and were surprised, He asked them, "Have you anything here to eat?" They gave Him a piece of broiled fish. He took it and ate it while they were watching Him.

Then He scolded them because their minds were closed and they didn't believe those who had seen Him after He had risen.

"While I was still with you," He said to them, "I told

you that everything written about Me in the Law of Moses, the Prophets, and the Psalms must come true." Then He opened their minds to understand what was written. "So it is written," He told them, "that the promised Savior should suffer, rise from the dead on the third day, and in His name you should preach to all people, beginning at Jerusalem, that they repent of their sins so they may be forgiven. You will testify of these things."

"Peace to you!" Jesus said to them again. "As the Father sent Me, so I send you." When He had said this, He breathed on them and said: "Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive sins, they are forgiven; if you do not forgive them, they are not forgiven."

Thomas Sees Jesus

But Thomas, one of the twelve, who was called "Twin," was not with them when Jesus came. So the other disciples told him, "We have seen the Lord."

"Unless I see the marks of the nails in His hands," he told them, "and put my finger in the marks of the nails and put my hand in His side, I won't believe it."

A week later His disciples were again in the house, and Thomas was with them. The doors were locked, but Jesus came and stood among them. "Peace to you!" He said. Then He told Thomas: "Put your finger here, and look at My hands — and take your hand and put it in My side. And don't doubt but believe."

"My Lord and my God!" Thomas answered Him.

"Do you believe because you have seen Me?" Jesus asked him. "Blessed are those who did not see Me and still believed."

Breakfast with Jesus

After that, the eleven disciples went to Galilee, where Jesus had told them to go. There Jesus showed Himself again

to the disciples at the Lake of Galilee. He showed Himself in this way.

Simon Peter, Thomas (called Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples of Jesus were together. Simon Peter said to the others, "I'm going fishing."

"We're going with you," they told him.

They went out and got into the boat. But that night they caught nothing. When morning came, Jesus stood on the shore. But the disciples didn't know it was Jesus.

"Boys, do you have any fish?" Jesus asked them.

They answered Him, "No."

"Drop the net on the right side of the boat," He told them, "and you will find some." So they dropped the net. And then they couldn't pull it any more because there were so many fish.

The disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord." When Simon Peter heard him say, "It is the Lord," he put on the coat that he had taken off, fastened it with his belt, and jumped into the lake. But the other disciples, who were not far from the shore, only about a hundred yards, came in the small boat, dragging the net full of fish.

As they stepped out on the shore, they saw burning coals there with fish lying on them, and bread.

"Bring some of the fish which you have just caught," Jesus told them. Simon Peter got into the small boat and pulled the net on the shore. It was filled with a hundred and fifty-three large fish. Although there were so many, the net wasn't torn.

"Come, have breakfast," Jesus told them. None of the disciples dared to ask Him, "Who are You?" They knew it was the Lord. Jesus came, took the bread, gave it to them, and also the fish.

This was the third time that Jesus showed Himself to the disciples after He had risen from the dead.

"Do You Love Me?"

When they had eaten breakfast, Jesus asked Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love Me more than these do?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered Him, "You know I love You."

"Feed My lambs," Jesus told him.

"Simon, son of John," He asked him a second time, "do you love Me?"

"Yes, Lord," he answered Him, "You know I love You."

"Be a shepherd of My sheep," Jesus told him.

"Simon, son of John," He asked him a third time, "do you love Me?"

Peter felt sad because He asked him the third time, "Do you love Me?" "Lord, You know everything," he answered Him, "You know I love You."

"Feed My sheep," Jesus told him. "I tell you the truth: When you were younger, you used to fasten your belt and go where you wanted to go. But when you are old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will tie you and take you where you don't want to go." He said this to show by what kind of death Peter would glorify God. After saying this, He told him, "Follow Me."

Peter turned and saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them. He was the one who at the supper had leaned against Jesus' breast and had asked, "Lord, who is going to betray You?" When Peter saw him, he asked Jesus, "Lord, what about him?"

"If I want him to stay till I come," Jesus asked him, "what is that to you? You follow Me." It was therefore said among the Christians, "That disciple will not die." Yet Jesus didn't say, "He will not die," but "If I want him to stay till I come, what is that to you?"

This is the disciple who testified about these things and who wrote this. And we know that what he testifies is true.

"Go!"

The eleven disciples went to the mountain where Jesus had told them to go. When they saw Him, they worshiped Him, but some doubted.

Coming nearer, Jesus spoke to them. "All power in heaven and on earth has been given to Me," He said. "Go everywhere in the world, and preach the good news to the whole world. He who believes and is baptized will be saved, but he who does not believe will be damned. Go and make disciples of all people: Baptize them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teach them to do everything that I have commanded you.

"The believers will have these proofs: In My name they will drive out devils. They will speak new languages. They will take up snakes. If they drink any deadly poison, it will not hurt them. They will lay their hands on the sick, and these will get well.

"And remember, I am with you always till the end of the world."

Jesus Goes Up to Heaven

After His suffering Jesus in many ways proved to the apostles that He was alive as He showed Himself to them during forty days and spoke about the kingdom of God.

When He met with them, He ordered them not to leave Jerusalem. "I am sending you Him whom My Father promised, as you heard Me tell you. Wait here in the city until power comes on you from above. John baptized with water, but in a few days you will be baptized with the Holy Spirit."

When they came together, He took them out to a place where Bethany lay ahead of them.

"Lord," they asked Him, "are You now going to make Israel an independent kingdom again?"

"It isn't for you to know any times or periods," He told them, "which the Father has set by His own authority. But when the Holy Spirit comes on you, you will receive power, and you will testify of Me in Jersua^lem, in all Judea and Samaria, and to the end of the world."

When He had said this, He raised His hands and blessed them. While He was blessing them and they were watching Him, He was lifted up, and a cloud *took Him* away so that they couldn't see Him any more. He was taken *up to heaven*, and *He sat down at the right hand of God*.¹⁸⁷

They were gazing up to heaven as He was going away, and now there were two men in white clothes standing beside them. "Men of Galilee," they asked, "why are you standing there and looking up to heaven? This Jesus who was taken away from you to heaven will come back in the same way as you have seen Him go to heaven."

They knelt and worshiped Jesus. And then they left the Mount of Olives, as it was called. It is near Jerusalem, only half a mile away. They were very happy as they went back to Jerusalem. And they were always in the temple praising God.

The disciples went out and preached everywhere,
and the Lord worked with them and confirmed
the Word by the wonderful proofs
that went with it.

AMEN

Jesus did many other things, also many other miracles, before His disciples, which are not written in this book. If every one of these were written, I suppose the world would not have room for the books that would be written. But these are written that you may believe

JESUS IS THE PROMISED SAVIOR,
THE SON OF GOD,
and by believing may have life in His name.

THE SON OF MAN

This is a record showing how Jesus Christ came from David and from Abraham. Jesus, who is called Christ, was the Son of Mary and, as people thought, of Mary's husband, of Joseph, of —

(Luke)	(Matthew)	(Luke)	(Matthew)
Heli	Jacob	Menna	
Matthat	Matthan	Mattatha	
Levi	Eleazar	Nathan	Solomon, the son of Uriah's wife
Melchi	Eliud	David	David
Jannai	Achim	Jesse	Jesse
Joseph	Zadok	Obed	Obed, the son of Ruth
Mattathias	Azor	Boaz	Boaz, the son of Rahab
Amos	Eliakim	Salmon	Salmon
Nahum		Nahshon	Nahshon
Esli		Amminadab	Amminadab
Naggai		Ram	Ram
Maath		Admin	
Mattathias		Arni	
Semein		Hezron	Hezron
Josech		Perez	Perez and Zerah were the sons of Tamar
Joda		Judah	Judah and his brothers
Joanan	Abiud	Jacob	Jacob
Rhesa		Isaac	Isaac
Zerubbabel	Zerubbabel	Abraham	Abraham
Shealtiel	Shealtiel	Terah	So there are, in all, fourteen generations
Neri	Jechoniah after the peo- ple had been taken away to Babylon. Dur- ing the Babylonian Captivity Jechoniah and his brothers were the sons of	Nahor	from Abraham to Da- vid, fourteen from Da- vid to the Babylonian Captivity, and fourteen from the Babylonian Captivity to Christ.
Melchi		Serug	
Addi	Josiah	Reu	
Cosam	Amon	Peleg	
Elmadam	Manasseh	Eber	
Er	Hezekiah	Shelah	
Jesus	Ahaz	Cainan	
Eliezer	Jotham	Arphaxad	
Jorim	Uzziah	Shem	
Matthat		Noah	
Levi		Lamech	
Simeon		Methuselah	
Judas	Joram	Enoch	
Joseph	Jehoshaphat	Jared	
Jonam	Asa	Mahalaleel	
Eliakim	Abijah	Cainan	
Melea	Rehoboam	Enos	
		Seth	
		Adam	
		God	

*The Adulteress**

Then each of them went home. But Jesus went to the Mount of Olives. Early in the morning He came again into the temple. All the people came to Him, and He sat down and taught them.

The experts in the Law and the Pharisees brought to Him a woman who had been caught in adultery and had her stand in the middle. "Teacher," they told Him, "this woman was caught in the act of adultery. In the Law, Moses ordered us to stone such women. Now what do You say?" They asked this to test Him. They wanted to find something of which they could accuse Him.

Jesus bent down and with His finger wrote on the ground. But when they kept asking Him, He raised His head. "If there is anyone without sin among you," He said, "let him be the first to throw a stone at her." Then He bent down again and wrote on the ground.

Convicted by their conscience as they heard Him, they went out one by one, beginning with the older men, until Jesus was left alone with the woman, who was in the middle of the place. Jesus raised His head and saw only the woman. "Woman, where are they?" He asked her. "Didn't anyone condemn you?"

"No one, Lord," she said.

"I don't condemn you either," Jesus said. "Go, from now on don't sin any more."

* Our best manuscripts, including a fine papyrus from A. D. 200 called P⁶⁶, omit this story. It is most likely a true story in the life of Jesus but not a part of the Gospel that John wrote.

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THE LIFE OF JESUS

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° Some of the best manuscripts omit Mark 16:9-20.